

April 8, 2008



**TRANSCRIPT
April 8, 2008**

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

PRESENT

Councilmember Michael Knapp, President
Councilmember Roger Berliner
Councilmember Valerie Ervin
Councilmember George Leventhal

Councilmember Phil Andrews, Vice-President
Councilmember Marc Elrich
Councilmember Nancy Floreen
Councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg



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1 Council President Knapp,
2 Come and join us.

3
4 Minister Megan Foley,
5 I bring greetings from River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation this morning.
6 Thank you inviting me to do this.

7
8 Council President Knapp,
9 Thank you.

10
11 Minister Megan Foley,
12 Please let us join together in the spirit of prayer. We human beings are defined by a
13 fundamental conflict. We are each of us decidedly individuals, decidedly self-interested
14 and self-promoting, and yet we need each other to achieve all that is possible for us.
15 This morning finds us once again together joined in community to work with one another
16 towards the common good. Help us to remember that it is through aiding each other that
17 our own highest potential is realized. Help us to see what and who and where there is
18 suffering in our community, where there is lack. And show us how to serve. And help to
19 us believe that none of us are safe and sound until all of us are safe and sound. This is
20 the very nature of humanity. We need one another in order to secure our common
21 future. May this truth not be forgotten in the difficult work we join together here to do.
22 With grateful and determined hearts, we say amen.

23
24 Council President Knapp,
25 Amen. Thank you very much. Okay. Valerie, are your folks? Okay. That's what I was
26 going to say. Do you want to do, do you have your basketball?

27
28 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
29 I have the girls.

30
31 Council President Knapp,
32 Alright. Well, let's start with that then. We have a number of Proclamations this morning.
33 And so we'll begin with Proclamation conducted by Councilmember Trachtenberg to the
34 Paint Branch Girls 3A Basketball team for winning the Maryland State championship. So
35 I will turn to Councilmember Trachtenberg. [applause]. [indiscernible multiple
36 speakers].

37
38 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
39 Come on up and join us as well. [indiscernible]. It's my pleasure today [indiscernible]
40 Paint Branch High School. I actually grew up in a time when we didn't have girls'
41 basketball . [indiscernible]. I remember we had an intramural team [indiscernible]
42 towering five feet I was [indiscernible]. I want to acknowledge your incredible
43 performance in winning a state title. Obviously, you bring great honor to your high
44 school, but really to your community as well. And clearly I want to also thank your coach



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1 [indiscernible] job in getting you here. I'm going to read some of the language from the
2 Proclamation. I'll edit it a bit so I can give the coach and the principal and, perhaps, the
3 captain of the team a chance to make some brief remarks. Whereas championship
4 seasons are the result of hard work, focus, and determination, qualities that the Paint
5 Branch High School girls basketball team demonstrated in abundance [indiscernible]
6 2008 Maryland 3A West Region and 3A State championships. And whereas over the
7 years the Paint Branch High School girls' basketball team has demonstrated that [
8 indiscernible] with a long tradition [indiscernible] and dedicated players and coaches
9 having earned regional final appearance 11 of the past 12 seasons, and having won
10 three previous state championships. And whereas the Lady Panthers which last won a
11 state title in 2001 completed a season about which teams at any level could only dream,
12 finishing unbeaten at 25 to zero after defeating [indiscernible] 74 to 39 in the state final
13 at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. And this title was the culmination of
14 more than one season of hard work as the Panthers under your head coach Heather
15 Podosek and the assistant coaches Casey Crump, Katie Codwell, Mike Hodock, and
16 Mickie – have won 40 of the last 41 games dating back to the 2006-2007 season.
17 Whereas all the players, coaches, the families, and supporters deserve hardy
18 congratulations for setting their sights high, realizing their dreams and finishing as the
19 number two ranked team in the entire Washington metropolitan region. Now therefore
20 be it resolved that the County Council of Montgomery County, Maryland hereby
21 proclaims congratulations and salutes the Paint Branch High School Girls' Basketball
22 team. [applause].
23

24 Jeanette Dickson,
25 I would like to just thank the County Council very much for recognizing our Lady
26 Panthers. In addition to being wonderful basketball players they are wonderful young
27 women as well. And excellent students. And I want to say publicly, again, thank you to
28 our wonderful coach. She also had 300 victories this year.
29

30 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
31 Wow. [applause].
32

33 Jeanette Dickson,
34 Which is really good. We're very proud of our program and we have the best athletic
35 director in Montgomery County, Jeffrey Sullivan, as well. So, thank you all very, very
36 much for this recognition [indiscernible]. Thank you all very much for this recognition.
37

38 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
39 Thank you for an excellent job.
40

41 Jeanette Dickson,
42 And like you, I didn't have basketball as well, and so it's great to see them take the court
43 and be victorious. So thank you very much.
44



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1 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
2 Thank you. And does the captain of the team want to make any remarks?
3
4 Heather Podosek,
5 Two of my two seniors. Ashleigh and Michelle, do you want to come on up? [laughter].
6
7 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
8 [multiple speakers]. Yeah, but short is good.
9
10 Heather Podosek,
11 Short is good.
12
13 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
14 Good for turnovers.
15
16 Heather Podosek,
17 Thank you.
18
19 Unidentified
20 Thanks for the Proclamation.
21
22 Unidentified
23 Thank you everybody and team, good job. We came a long way.
24
25 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
26 Thank you for joining us this morning. And again, we look forward to next season.
27
28 Heather Podosek,
29 We do too.
30
31 Unidentified
32 We do too.
33
34 Unidentified
35 Thank you.
36
37 Heather Podosek,
38 Thank you all.
39
40 Neil Greenberger,
41 If I can get everyone to move in a little closer and make about two or three rows, we're
42 going to keep Councilmember Trachtenberg up front.
43
44 Councilmember Trachtenberg,



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1 Visible.
2
3 Neil Greenberger,
4 With the guards.
5
6 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
7 Right. Exactly.
8
9 Neil Greenberger,
10 And if everybody be just move in a little more close so we can get everybody. Okay.
11 Move in even more.
12
13 Heather Podosek,
14 Why doesn't everybody turn a little sideways, that might help too.
15
16 Neil Greenberger,
17 That's great too. And I need to see. You need to be able to see me or I can't see you.
18 So the person in the back, I want to, if you have to poke around somebody that means
19 I'm not going to be able to see you in the picture. If a couple people want to get in the
20 front and just kneel down, that's okay too if that helps. [multiple speakers]. I'm missing
21 one of the girls.
22
23 Heather Podosek,
24 Yeah, Michelle, why don't you come forward.
25
26 Jeanette Dickson,
27 Michelle, come forward.
28
29 Heather Podosek,
30 And Ashleigh.
31
32 Jeanette Dickson,
33 Right. And Ashleigh.
34
35 Heather Podosek,
36 Does that help a little bit?
37
38 Jeanette Dickson,
39 Yes. You guys squat down a little bit.
40
41 Heather Podosek,
42 A little lower. A little lower. Not too low. You've got to be seen over the table.
43
44 Neil Greenberger,



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1 That's perfect. Yes. Girl in the red, could you just move? Good. Okay. I think we're
2 going to do it. I'm going to take a bunch of these. You have to smile for every one.
3 Great. Looks good. A few more.

4
5 Jeanette Dickson,
6 By the way, the girl in the red is the Gator Ade player of the year as well.

7
8 Councilmember Floreen,
9 Cool.

10
11 Neil Greenberger,
12 Couple more. Don't move.

13
14 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
15 It'll be worth it. We'll make you sure you get.

16
17 Neil Greenberger,
18 Looks good, thank you.

19
20 Council President Knapp,
21 [multiple speakers]. [applause]. Congratulations to the Paint Branch Basketball team.
22 Well done.

23
24 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
25 Thank you.

26
27 Council President Knapp,
28 Congratulations. Well done. We'll now turn to Councilmember Ervin for a Proclamation
29 to the Montgomery County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in
30 recognition of Delta Youth Day in Montgomery County. Councilmember Ervin.

31
32 Councilmember Ervin,
33 Good morning, everyone. We are here to celebrate Delta Youth Day. I'm looking around
34 the room and I see a lot of youth. But they're not here for Delta Youth Day. The students
35 that were supposed to be here are in school because they have standardized tests
36 today. So we are being joined here today with Lorna Ford, Yemena Leggett-Wells, Dr.
37 Sheila Dobbins, Maria-Eifel-Phillip, and Chris Richardson, and they represent the Delta
38 Sigma Theta Sorority. And here in Montgomery County, we're so blessed with having a
39 lot of service organizations. But Delta Sigma Theta Sorority has been around a very
40 long time and is well known in our community for serving the community, especially
41 youth. So today we are going to honor them as they've honored us with a Proclamation.
42 So I will read the Proclamation and then ask Chris Richardson to come up and give us a
43 few words. Whereas Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has been a public service
44 organization of approximately 200,000 college-educated women united in their pledge



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1 to implement the sorority's five developmental objectives: educational achievement,
2 political awareness and involvement, economic growth, physical and mental health well-
3 being, and international awareness and involvement. And whereas the Montgomery
4 County of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. chartered on March 7, 1970 having over 500
5 members locally has made significant contributions to County residents by providing
6 services and programs which particularly impact the County's African American youth,
7 elderly, and women. And whereas as politics and government significantly impact the
8 quality of life of every individual, the Montgomery County Alumnae Chapter of Delta
9 Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. provides and supports programs that educate citizens about
10 the political process and encourage them to participate in public life. And now,
11 therefore, do we, Isaiah Leggett as County Executive and Michael J. Knapp as County
12 Council President, hereby proclaim commendations to the Montgomery County
13 Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. And be it further resolved that we
14 take this opportunity to wish them much success in its present and future endeavors
15 and -- the Chapter for its development, implementation of their Annual Delta Youth Day
16 to provide the opportunity to selected local high schools an opportunity to see how local
17 government works for them. We congratulate you on this 15th anniversary of Delta
18 Youth Day. Signed this eighth day of April, in the year 2008. Signed by Isaiah Leggett
19 and Council President, Michael J. Knapp. And so I'd like Chris Richardson.

20
21 Chris Richardson,
22 [applause]. Thank you very much. Thank you. It's indeed an honor for us to be here
23 today and we thank you very much. As was read to you, we are a public service
24 organization with a five point programmatic thrust: physical and mental health,
25 international awareness, political awareness, education development, and as we move
26 forward, not only do we support the youth in the community, but we do a number of
27 projects in the community for all ages. We have economic fortitude efforts that's going
28 on and coming up here next Sunday we will be awarding scholarships based upon the
29 public service activities that we've done. It is indeed an honor to see the youth that are
30 here today and as we have had our Youth Day, we not only bring them here but we also
31 allow them to have an exchange where we have kids from other countries talk about
32 what their government is like so that our kids and our community can learn more about
33 other countries and compare them to how we operate. As the County moves forward,
34 we're also letting you know that we're here to join you and support whatever activities
35 we can in this particular County. As you mentioned earlier, we are a chapter of well over
36 200,000 women, international also. And we started in 1913. So we're sitting right at 95
37 years in age. And our particular chapter here in Montgomery County has been here 37
38 years. So we're here. We live here and we want to do whatever we can to support the
39 County. Again, thank you very much. [applause].

40
41 Neil Greenberger,
42 And you can all move up and just move a little closer together. Hold up the
43 Proclamation and, yeah, just open it, that'd be great. Great. Thank you. Super. I'm going



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1 to take a bunch of these, so bear with me. Smile. Bear with me. Two more. Here we go.
2 Big finale. Looks great. Thank you.

3
4 Councilmember Ervin,
5 Thank you. [multiple speakers].

6
7 Council President Knapp,
8 Thank you very much to the Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority for joining us this
9 morning. We were also supposed to be joined by the boys of Springbrook who are the
10 champion 4A Basketball team, but we believe because of testing they have not made it
11 this morning and so I just wanted to check one more time. Is anyone from Springbrook
12 out there? Okay. There is not. So hopefully we will either get them later today or at a
13 future Council meeting. We now turn to General Business. Any Announcements or
14 Calendar changes?

15
16 Linda Lauer,
17 We have no changes and we received one petition this week and that was from
18 students at Northwest High School supporting our legislation on restrictions of
19 investments in Sudan. Thank you.

20
21 Council President Knapp,
22 Thank you very much Ms. Lauer. Madam Clerk, do we have any Minutes to Approve?

23
24 Council Clerk,
25 We have the Minutes of March 17th and 18th for Approval.

26
27 Council President Knapp,
28 Is there a motion?

29
30 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
31 So moved.

32
33 Council President Knapp,
34 Moved by Councilmember Trachtenberg.

35
36 Councilmember Leventhal,
37 Second.

38
39 Council President Knapp,
40 Seconded by Councilmember Leventhal. Any comments on them? There are none. All
41 in support of the Minutes indicate by saying I or raising your hand. That is unanimous
42 among those present. We now turn to the Consent Calendar. Is there a motion?

43
44 Councilmember Floreen,



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1 Move approval.

2
3 Council President Knapp,
4 Moved by Councilmember Floreen.

5
6 Councilmember Elrich,
7 Second.

8
9 Council President Knapp,
10 Seconded by Councilmember Elrich. Comments on the Consent Calendar? Council
11 Vice-President Andrews.

12
13 Councilmember Andrews,
14 Thank you Council President Knapp. I wanted to comment briefly on items H and I
15 which are Supplemental appropriations to the County Government for accepting federal
16 grant funds for Homeland Security initiatives. I appreciate the detailed responses that
17 were provided by the folks sitting at the front of the room. Thank you. And if there are
18 any questions about them, I think they're probably answered by the responses there.
19 One of these grants is for \$614,000, the other for \$812,000 to the Police Department,
20 Homeland Security Office, Sheriff's Office, and Fire and Rescue Service for various
21 initiatives in the area of Homeland Security, including emergency preparedness
22 education, which is a continuing need given the turnover in our County in terms of
23 people coming in and out and the need to continue to educate people. But what they
24 need to do as members of the public to protect themselves in the case of an
25 emergency. So I want to commend the Departments for their initiative. Thank you for
26 the timely responses. And I would urge my colleagues to support these federal grant
27 appropriations.

28
29 Council President Knapp,
30 Great. Thank you very much. Councilmember Floreen.

31
32 Councilmember Floreen,
33 Thank you. I had a question about the funding source on items C and E. The first one is
34 the Silver Spring Library land acquisition and the second one is the 3rd District Police
35 Station. And I'm wondering why we're not funding advanced land acquisition through
36 our advanced land acquisition fund as opposed to GO bonds?

37
38 Council President Knapp,
39 Is there anyone that could answer that?

40
41 Essie McGuire,
42 That's a question I could get full clarification on from OMB. I don't see OMB here in the
43 audience.



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1 Councilmember Floreen,
2 I don't see them either. But I would, yeah.

3
4 Essie McGuire,
5 I can get clarification on that for the worksession, however, I would like to add that the
6 current Silver Spring PDF does have quite a bit of dollars for land in it already. So this is
7 a continuation of that policy but we can clarify.

8
9 Councilmember Floreen,
10 Well, I reiterate my question.

11
12 Council President Knapp,
13 Okay.

14
15 Councilmember Floreen,
16 It would seem to me that this should be ALARF money until we're ready to move.

17
18 Essie McGuire,
19 I'll bring that to the worksession.

20
21 Councilmember Floreen,
22 Okay.

23
24 Council President Knapp,
25 For both the Police Station and for the Library?

26
27 Councilmember Floreen,
28 Thank you.

29
30 Council President Knapp,
31 Okay. Thank you very much. I would just thank the Chair of the Public Safety
32 Committee for his diligence in getting the answers to questions for items H and I and for
33 the Department of Homeland Security for their responsiveness. I know you had a pretty
34 quick turnaround time and I thank you for getting us the answers to those questions. I
35 would also suggest to my colleagues that we have, as Councilmember Floreen has just
36 indicated, a number of Supplemental appropriations to the FY08 Capital Budget. We
37 actually, there is some reserve capacity in this remaining fiscal year. And to the extent
38 that there are, and I'll turn to Dr. Orlin as well, that there are projects that the Council
39 may look to doing this year as opposed to moving out. I know these are some things
40 that the Executive has recommended, but this would be, we would need to have
41 something introduced either today or next week in order to get it considered as a part of
42 the budget. Is that correct? I'm seeing a head nodding yes. Okay. So if colleagues have
43 ideas as to things that we may also want to have in the mix for that discussion, I would
44 urge them to think of what those might be. Councilmember Floreen?



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1
2 Councilmember Floreen,
3 If you're inviting submission for capital projects, how much money do we have?
4
5 Council President Knapp,
6 What is currently the reserve in FY08?
7
8 Glenn Orlin,
9 Twelve million dollars.
10
11 Council President Knapp,
12 Okay.
13
14 Councilmember Floreen,
15 So that we have got 4 million left?
16
17 Council President Knapp,
18 Well, or if there are projects that's the Council thought were.
19
20 Councilmember Floreen,
21 Five and three.
22
23 Council President Knapp,
24 Were either higher priority or things that we would want to move around, I, now is the
25 time to raise those ideas in the next week to two weeks.
26
27 Councilmember Floreen,
28 Okay.
29
30 Council President Knapp,
31 Okay.
32
33 Councilmember Floreen,
34 And that's \$4 million worth?
35
36 Council President Knapp,
37 He's not disagreeing.
38
39 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
40 Sounds good.
41
42 Council President Knapp,



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1 If you have ideas please follow up with Dr. Orlin or myself and we can make sure that
2 the appropriate things get introduced so we can consider them alongside the other
3 Supplemental appropriations that have been introduced.

4
5 Councilmember Floreen,
6 Well, let me just say.

7
8 Council President Knapp,
9 At the request of the Executive.

10
11 Councilmember Floreen,
12 Glenn has proposed moving the pedestrian things and sucking up the rest with that. Is
13 that correct? Which is, nothing wrong with it. I'm all for it but is that your solution? You
14 can come sit down. You're going to be there anyways.

15
16 Glenn Orlin,
17 Yes.

18
19 Councilmember Floreen,
20 So we think that is spoken for?

21
22 Glenn Orlin,
23 Well, it depends, we'll see what you do later this morning, but the idea was that in that
24 particular project there's three and a half million dollars worth of current revenue in the
25 sidewalk infrastructure revitalization project.

26
27 Councilmember Floreen,
28 That we can.

29
30 Glenn Orlin,
31 And if you can do that with bond, that's a bond fundable thing, if you can do that in FY08
32 instead, that frees up three and a half million dollars to help your operating budget
33 problem.

34
35 Councilmember Floreen,
36 And we roll that over into our so called, in our reserve?

37
38 Glenn Orlin,
39 Right.

40
41 Councilmember Floreen,
42 For '09. Okay.

43
44 Glenn Orlin,



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1 Well, it frees up current revenue in '09.

2
3 Councilmember Floreen,
4 Yeah.

5
6 Glenn Orlin,
7 Which is.

8
9 Council President Knapp,
10 So we would, but we'd have to have something, we'd have to introduce anything for
11 that?

12
13 Glenn Orlin,
14 We do, but I thought we would wait until after, see what you do this morning, we could
15 introduce it next week.

16
17 Council President Knapp,
18 Okay.

19
20 Councilmember Floreen,
21 Yeah. Okay.

22
23 Glenn Orlin,
24 And still be timely.

25
26 Councilmember Floreen,
27 Thanks.

28
29 Council President Knapp,
30 Okay. Sounds good. Thank you. Council Vice-President Andrews.

31
32 Councilmember Andrews,
33 Thank you. I wanted to also thank Homeland Security Department Director Gordon -- for
34 his dedication on looking for good grant opportunities for the County and for his
35 excellent service on the Capital, COG Emergency Council. He has served us in a lot of
36 roles and we look forward to continuing to see the benefits of your work.

37
38 Council President Knapp,
39 Okay. Seeing no further discussion. All in favor of the Consent Calendar, please raise
40 your hand. That is unanimous. Thank you very much. We now turn to Legislative
41 Session Day number 11. Approval of the Legislative Journal. Madam Clerk.

42
43 Council Clerk,
44 We have the Legislative Journal of March 18th for approval.



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1
2 Council President Knapp,
3 Is there a motion?

4
5 Councilmember Elrich,
6 So moved.

7
8 Councilmember Ervin,
9 Second.

10
11 Council President Knapp,
12 Moved by Councilmember Elrich, seconded by Councilmember Ervin. All in support of
13 the Legislative Journal indicate by raising your hand. That is unanimous. Introduction of
14 Bills. We have a number of Bills to introduce in conjunction with our consideration of our
15 personnel benefits and in conjunction with the budget itself. I can do these all as, run
16 through them all, okay. We have Expedited Bill 6-08, Personnel - Retirement -
17 Amendments, sponsored by the Council President at the request of the County
18 Executive, and let me just say at the outset that each of these Bills that I'm reading right
19 now is scheduled for public hearing on April 29, at 1:30 p.m. We have Expedited Bill 7-
20 08, Personnel - Retirement - Group F, Mandatory Retirement sponsored by the Council
21 President at the request of the County Executive. Expedited Bill 8-08, Personnel -
22 Disability Retirement - Group G, sponsored by the Council President at the request of
23 the County Executive. Expedited Bill 9-08, Personnel - Fire and Rescue Volunteers -
24 Death Benefit, sponsored by the Council President at the request of the County
25 Executive. Expedited Bill 10-08, Personnel - Deferred Compensation - Enrollment,
26 sponsored by the Council President at the request of the County Executive. Bill 11-08,
27 Personnel - Retirement Benefit Structure - Guaranteed Retirement Income Plan (GRIP),
28 sponsored by the Council President at the request of the County Executive. And finally,
29 Expedited Bill 12-08, Personnel - Retirement - Retirement Incentive Program,
30 sponsored by the Council President at the request of the County Executive. I see no
31 questions or comments on the Introduction of those Bills. So again, as I said at the
32 outset, public hearing is scheduled for April 29th at 1:30 p.m. Okay. We turn to District
33 Council Session. Introduction of the Zoning Text Amendment 08-05, Transit-Oriented
34 Mixed-Use Zones, sponsored by the District Council at the request of the Montgomery
35 County Planning Board. We have before us Action and Resolution to establish a public
36 hearing for May 20th at 7:30 p.m. Is there a motion?

37
38 Councilmember Leventhal,
39 I move that we have a public hearing Mr. President.

40
41 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
42 Second.

43
44 Council President Knapp,



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1 Moved by Councilmember Leventhal, seconded by Councilmember Trachtenberg. All in
2 favor, indicate by raising your hand. That is unanimous. And we have Action Resolution
3 to establish public hearing on the Twinbrook Sector Plan for May 20, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

4
5 Councilmember Andrews,
6 So moved.

7
8 Councilmember Leventhal,
9 Let's have.

10
11 Council President Knapp,
12 Let's have.

13
14 Councilmember Leventhal,
15 Let's do it. Second.

16
17 Council President Knapp,
18 We've got to follow the rules. Moved by Council Vice-President Andrews. Seconded by
19 Councilmember Leventhal. All in support indicate by raising your hand. That is also
20 unanimous. We now turn to worksession, actually before we move from the District
21 Council Session, let me just reiterate that there are a number of questions that have
22 been prepared by staff as it relates to the Transit-Oriented Mixed-Use Zones. There are
23 a number of questions that need to be reconciled. And I thank both Marlene and Jeff for
24 their diligence in going through the Zone and looking at the issues that need to be
25 raised. And I believe there were 14 different questions that were introduced for our
26 consideration. But we expect that we will have information regarding that from the
27 Planning Board and proceed ideally for a public hearing, but certainly before we get to
28 worksession for the PHED Committee.

29
30 Marlene Michaelson,
31 We'll convey that that is your desire.

32
33 Council President Knapp,
34 Excellent. Councilmember Floreen?

35
36 Councilmember Floreen,
37 Thank you. Marlene, have we been clear enough in conveying to the Planning Board
38 that the Zoning Text Amendments, whatever, need to accompany the actual plan?

39
40 Marlene Michaelson,
41 Yes, and.

42
43 Councilmember Floreen,
44 I believe that we have this conversation every year for the past six years.



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1
2 Marlene Michaelson,
3 Yes, and we are introducing that.

4
5 Councilmember Floreen,
6 At what point do we verify that the message has been received?

7
8 Marlene Michaelson,
9 I think the message has been received. I think what you'll have to debate is whether the
10 Text Amendment was submitted in a form that you're ready to work through it or
11 whether there are enough outstanding issues that you're going to have a problem when
12 you start working on it.

13
14 Councilmember Floreen,
15 I can't wait for that conversation.

16
17 Council President Knapp,
18 Hence the questions that we're sending to the Planning Board. I think, in fact, that we've
19 introduced both of them at the same time, I think, in practice. What we're introducing
20 leaves a bit to be desired.

21
22 Councilmember Floreen,
23 Well.

24
25 Council President Knapp,
26 Verification.

27
28 Councilmember Floreen,
29 I'll just say, you know, that, as far as I'm concerned, a good first stab is better than, it
30 creates a framework.

31
32 Council President Knapp,
33 Correct.

34
35 Councilmember Floreen,
36 For the conversation dependent upon policy decisions that are made in the course of
37 the plan and at least that gets you started. I don't expect them to have all the answers
38 until we've figured out what the questions are.

39
40 Council President Knapp,
41 Right. Well, hopefully we've established that framework.

42
43 Councilmember Floreen,
44 Yeah.



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1
2 Council President Knapp,
3 Okay. Thank you very much. We now turn to our Worksession on the Initial
4 reconciliation of the FY09-14 Capital Improvements Program. Dr. Orlin will join us. This
5 is, I was actually going to turn to Dr. Orlin for just the status report and then to walk
6 through what the recommendation I would have before us for Council consideration and
7 any other comments that Councilmembers may have. If you could kind of walk through
8 what our current status of what the Council has recommended as it relates to the CIP to
9 date.

10
11 Glenn Orlin,
12 Sure. Through last week, the Council has tentatively added funding for, that's funded
13 with the general obligation bonds and offset by school impact taxes and current revenue
14 from the recordation tax. You're \$363 million higher than the Executive, which is actually
15 greater than the entire amount of reserve. So there's a big problem. On the current
16 revenue side, you're actually about, excuse me, about \$69 million over within six years.
17 All of that really is, well, all but 6 million of that is in the last four years of the CIP. That's
18 certainly an issue for the long term. But it's not as much of a problem because the
19 Council's decision last February was that you were not going to necessarily agree with
20 the Executive in terms how much current revenue was going to be available in the last
21 four years of the CIP. You agreed that in the first two years, '09 and '10, that should try
22 to be about the same level of funding and current revenue as the Executive because of
23 the difficulties we're facing now with revenue, but not necessarily in the last four years.
24 So the problem in current revenue of the most immediacy is the fact that we're about \$5
25 million over in FY09 and \$800,000 over in fiscal year '10.

26
27 Council President Knapp,
28 Okay. So that is the problem, that's the challenge that we have before us. So pursuant
29 to the conversation we had at our worksession last week, I have followed up with
30 individual colleagues and also worked with our Council staff, Dr. Orlin and Linda
31 McMillan specifically as well as many others who have been supporting them to try to
32 take the priorities that the Council has indicated over the last month and a half and try to
33 begin to address the \$363 million overage that we currently have. As Dr. Orlin indicated,
34 we must bring our program spending within the approved spending levels and maintain
35 an adequate reserve. Spending higher than the level that's recommended depletes the
36 reserve and doesn't leave enough funds for projects currently in facility planning or
37 design that the Council has identified as priorities that will be ready for the construction
38 in the next year or two. And then there are various cost increases of existing projects,
39 and the unanticipated but desirable programming opportunities that may present
40 themselves over the coming year. As we are all aware, spending significantly above
41 where our recommended guidelines and targets are could potentially endanger the
42 County's AAA bond rating and since the spending at the level of the current guidelines
43 and targets bring debt service already to the brink of our 10% operating revenue, which
44 is a guideline that we generally used as a measure. Typically, our reconciliation takes



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1 place in May because we don't have that, quite that big a number that we're trying to
2 address. What we are doing today is a worksession to get us to, basically kind of a
3 number that is in the workable range. It is not our final reconciliation, but it is a
4 reconciliation that gets us to a manageable number. And so, that is my goal, that today
5 we will conclude our worksession with something that gets within the range and
6 guidelines that the Council needs to get to, fully recognizing that as we see the outcome
7 of the legislative session that just adjourned last evening in Annapolis, and we have a
8 better understanding of our operating budget, that we will still have some modifications
9 more technical than that hopefully, but some modifications that we'll stay make to the
10 CIP as we look at our final reconciliation of both of this and the operating budget in May.
11 So to that end, I believe my colleagues all have document, or a memo that I had
12 circulated yesterday that I was wanting to walk folks through and then see if there are
13 questions. And then, go from there. And hopefully by the time we break for lunch, we'll
14 have a CIP that is somewhere in the range of where we need it to be. As I listened to
15 my colleagues over the course of the last month, one thing that was very clear to me
16 that people were concerned about is, when we have a project that we've identified in the
17 CIP that there is a strong likelihood that if the Council has identified that as a priority,
18 that that project will in fact be funded through to construction. And that, I think,
19 contributed to some extent, that philosophy, to the overage. But I heard very clearly that
20 what people want to do is to make sure that when a project goes through planning and
21 design and is ready to move into construction, that we have the resources available to,
22 in fact, move that project into construction. And I believe that has been one of the
23 overriding objectives that we've tried to establish with this. And so, as you work through
24 this, you will see that one of the things that we'll have is a very significant reserve that
25 will allow us to fund those projects that we think are important. That is not to say
26 however that there is not a great deal of projects here that I think many of us will
27 struggle with. There are challenges to make a capital budget work. We have a lot of
28 competing demands. And we will have to make some choices that I personally am not
29 thrilled by. But the fact of the matter is, the numbers have to add up so we can actually
30 fund the projects that are our priorities. So, I will begin with page two of our memo and
31 you can either follow along on page two or look at, you can actually follow along with the
32 numbers in the Excel spreadsheet that Dr. Orlin has prepared as well. First, looking at
33 Montgomery County Public Schools, one of the challenges that we had there is high
34 school modernizations are very expensive. And we were presented with two
35 opportunities or alternatives from the, from our staff as it related to, from our education
36 staff, one of them was to look at delaying a number of capacity projects. Unfortunately
37 that doesn't generate that much additional capacity within the CIP. The other alternative,
38 and capacity projects are at the top of the priority lists of what gets funded within, at
39 least from the Board of Education's recommendations. So the other alternative is to
40 delay the start of high school modernizations that are scheduled, many of which are in
41 the \$80 million range. So this proposal delays the start of four high school
42 modernizations by one year and one by two years. So this is a proposal that the
43 Superintendent presented to the Board. The Board did not necessarily endorse this, but
44 it's something that people have seen and are at least aware of. The high schools that



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1 are listed, or the impacts are listed on circle one. They include Paint Branch High
2 School, Gaithersburg High School, Wheaton High School, Seneca Valley High School,
3 and Wooten High School. I will speak personally in that at least two of those are schools
4 in which I represent significant populations and this is of great concern to me. And in the
5 course of the next month if there are ways for us to look at other alternatives that could
6 potentially offset that, I would be more than welcome to try and do that. But this
7 provides a sufficient amount of capacity to open up a number of other projects that the
8 Council has looked at. The next on the MCPS is to delay three elementary school gym
9 projects by two years. The gym projects don't add capacity and are generally at the
10 lowest priority level within the MCPS CIP. And those two elementary school, the three
11 elementary schools are North Chevy Chase, Westbrook, and Cold Spring. Approve only
12 half of the proposed funding increase for several level of effort projects. One of the
13 things we tried to do was looking across the board to basically halve the amount of the
14 requested increase for these types of projects throughout the agencies and
15 departments. So this is only being consistent with that in this area. Then the final one for
16 MCPS is to remove the proposed funding for middle school reform initiative from the
17 Tech Mod Project. These are the promethean boards that we have heard about much, it
18 was discussed a lot last evening. The challenge with these are they are funded with
19 current revenue and address, as Dr. Orlin talked about, the current revenue problem
20 that we're trying to fix. I'm very interested in trying to see, knowing the level of activity
21 and engagement that this technology provides to our middle school students and
22 recognizing the investment that we have made in our elementary schools over the last
23 six years, this is the first cohort of students that is now moving into middle school from
24 the so-called Jerry's Kids, that I think it is important if the Council funds the middle
25 school reform initiative in the operating budget, that we look at trying to accompany this
26 to make that consistent. We'll see how that works, but I think that's something we
27 should strive to do if we can. The dollar figure on that is.

28
29 Glenn Orlin,
30 It's about 8.1 million over the six year period.

31
32 Council President Knapp,
33 So 8.1 over six. Basically, it's the 18 promethean boards that accompany the middle
34 school reform that's phased in in each of the middle schools. Questions on MCPS.
35 Okay. Public Safety. The Council has been pretty clear in its discussion that we wanted
36 to fully fund the Judicial Center Annex at the \$100 million that has been added for
37 construction so we have retained that, but spread the construction period over four
38 years instead of three with completion in FY15 instead of FY14. Fund only design for
39 five fire stations, two police stations, and the PRC kitchen and outdoor firearms training
40 projects, which allows principal to building projects, and design should be funded for
41 design until enough is known about the scope, community and environmental impacts.
42 But again, holding to the point that we discussed a lot, when the projects are ready to
43 move forward we actually have the reserve capacity that allows them to move forward.
44 Let's see, we've got some lights. Questions on Public safety?



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1
2 Councilmember Leventhal,
3 Well, no, not specifically on Public Safety.

4
5 Council President Knapp,
6 Okay.

7
8 Councilmember Leventhal,
9 If you want to conclude, then I'll save the questions.

10
11 Council President Knapp,
12 Okay, let me run through, then we'll go back to questions.

13
14 Councilmember Leventhal,
15 Yeah.

16
17 Council President Knapp,
18 Okay. Libraries and rec centers, fund only design for North Bethesda and North
19 Potomac centers. We don't know the cost of those but by providing the additional
20 resources we have the capacity to fund them once we know the cost. We are hearing
21 very clearly the commitment that the Council has made to the neighborhood rec centers
22 or the community recreation centers, Ross Boddy, Plumgar, Good Hope, and, which
23 one am I missing?

24
25 Unidentified
26 Scotland.

27
28 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
29 Scotland.

30
31 Council President Knapp,
32 Sorry. We have kept those programs in for planning and design as previously outlined
33 by the Council. But have also created a separate PDF for neighborhood recreation
34 center construction so that as the specific construction costs associated with each of
35 those projects comes forward, we have the construction dollars set aside, not
36 competing against other dollars in the reserve, but that the community centers or rec
37 centers have their own reserve so that they can be funded immediately as they're ready
38 to move forward to construction. So we have that set aside specifically as a new PDF.
39 Reduce funding for the rec modernization project, since its scope we superseded by
40 funding in the stand alone projects that we're funding. And then fund design of several
41 library projects for the reasons noted above with the exception of the Gaithersburg
42 Library renovation, which I think given the conversation we had last Tuesday is the
43 library that is most ready to move forward and I think we were all generally in agreement
44 with that. And then with the Silver Spring Library, there are a number of issues that



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1 were, that came up last week in our session and following our session, and so what we,
2 what I'm recommending here is that we keep the Silver Spring Library in with funding as
3 recommended by the Executive in his CIP recommendation. In general government
4 approve, again, as we did with MCPS, approve only half of the proposed funding
5 increases for several level of effort projects. Moving to Maryland National Capital Park
6 and Planning. In Parks, delay the Latonia Recreation Creek, Recreation Park by one
7 year which is actually pretty accurate and consistent with what the construction
8 schedule is. So it's not a delay except in funding. It really keeps that moving at the pace
9 that it's moving on. Delay three million in Legacy Open Space until after FY14 and
10 approve only half of the proposed funding increases for minor new construction on local
11 parks. For Transportation, this proposal retains full funding for Montrose Parkway East
12 but extends the period for land acquisition for an additional year and starts construction
13 two years later completing FY16 instead of FY14. And this way it's more likely that the
14 state will program and build the missing link between Parklawn and Rockville Pike so
15 we can better sync up with what the state is doing. There was obviously a lot of
16 conversation about this. I know some colleagues would like to see it go away all
17 together. Some colleagues would like to see it accelerated. This was an effort to try and
18 strike a middle ground where we try to at least sync up with where the state is to
19 address that issue so we don't end up far ahead of where the state is. Retain full
20 funding for the Falls Road east side hiker/biker path but delay the start of the design by
21 two years. Delete design funding for Goshen Road South. The project is still in facility
22 planning. Delete the ride-on fleet expansion project as recommended by Council staff.
23 We believe a much larger amount of unprogrammed transportation impact tax revenue
24 will be available and now that that's been introduced, that we suggest recommending
25 this project. Fund three and a half million dollars of the sidewalk and infrastructure
26 revitalization project in FY08 with fund in the GO bond reserve rather than in FY09,
27 which is something that we just discussed during our Consent Calendar item. By doing
28 these things we know.

29
30 Glenn Orlin,
31 Mr. Knapp.

32
33 Council President Knapp,
34 Yes.

35
36 Glenn Orlin,
37 This is, I made an error in the packet that I did not include a bullet for the North County
38 Maintenance Depot.

39
40 Council President Knapp,
41 Ah.

42
43 Glenn Orlin,
44 Which is.



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Council President Knapp,
A big one.

Glenn Orlin,
It's a big one. Basically, what the, what your proposal recommends is.

Council President Knapp,
Right.

Glenn Orlin,
Agreeing with the Executive to keep the project funded for design and land acquisition and supervision, but not to add the funds for construction of phase one.

Council President Knapp,
Correct.

Glenn Orlin,
I apologize for the.

Council President Knapp,
And.

Glenn Orlin,
It's in the spreadsheet, but it's not in the.

Council President Knapp,
Right.

Glenn Orlin,
Page 3.

Council President Knapp,
And as we went through the discussion of this, had we continued on with that, which was not recommended by the Executive, we would effectively ended up probably having to delay high schools for two years. Which I didn't find particular palatable. The capital reserve, what this now does then is increase our capital reserve itself to \$351 million. So we will have effectively gone from a \$363 million overage or being more than what we have to now having reserve of \$351 million, which will allow us to fund projects as they come available, as they come available. And the interesting thing is that much more of this reserve is available in the first four years than what generally had been planned in our spending affordability review in February. So as fire stations are ready to proceed to construction, as police stations are ready to proceed to construction, as our libraries are ready to proceed to construction, as the rec centers, North Bethesda and



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1 North Potomac are ready to proceed, we have the resources available to actually move
2 them into construction. And so I think that is a very clear message that this Council
3 articulated during the course of its CIP deliberations and so I wanted to make sure that
4 we have those resource there and I think that's an important thing for us to, in our
5 commitment to our community if a project is in the CIP, that we actually have the
6 resources to make sure that that project can be constructed. And I think we've
7 established that as a framework. If you look at the final page on circle two, you can see
8 about midway down the page, it says starting reserve July 1. You can see the amount of
9 reserve we have in each year totaling the \$333 million plus the \$17 million we have in
10 reserve for our neighborhood rec centers which gets you at a little, combined, a little
11 over 16% in reserve. And then you can see below that where we are with our current
12 the revenue issue as addressed by Dr. Orlin previously. And then you can see the
13 funding levels for all of the agencies and program areas and from our approved CIP to
14 what this proposal will address. And so that concludes kind of the modifications that we
15 proposed. And recognizing that I like to see all of the spreadsheets in front of me so I
16 know kind of all of the projects that are funded and I know a number of my colleagues
17 do as well, what this proposal presents is basically the changes or the deltas from what
18 the Council approved during its CIP worksessions. And so, effectively, what we have
19 gone through in our packets and had approved previously are retained as the Council
20 had discussed them and these show the changes. So I recognize that there's not a
21 massive spreadsheet and I struggle with that too. But that is kind of how this is laid out
22 for people to see because there are so many projects that we're trying address. With
23 that, I will take comments and questions that my Council colleagues have.
24 Councilmember Floreen had her light on first.

25
26 Councilmember Floreen,
27 Thank you very much. I have a couple of preliminary questions. And then a comment, I
28 guess. How does the reserve that you show here compare to what was in the proposed
29 capital program?

30
31 Glenn Orlin,
32 If you look on circle two, about a third of the way down the page, you see the bold line
33 that Mr. Knapp referred to, starting reserve July 1st. If you look just above that, you see
34 starting reserve February 5th.

35
36 Councilmember Floreen,
37 That was.

38
39 Glenn Orlin,
40 That's really where we started. That's what the Executive's recommendation was. It
41 shows up as a negative but those would be the amounts of the reserve, so it would 14.

42
43 Councilmember Floreen,
44 So the 279 was what? Was assumed in the County Executive's budget?



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1
2 Glenn Orlin,
3 Correct. For the six years.

4
5 Councilmember Floreen,
6 And this adds basically a little over \$50 million?

7
8 Glenn Orlin,
9 Well, it adds.

10
11 Councilmember Floreen,
12 To the reserve.

13
14 Glenn Orlin,
15 It adds the 54 million or so in just a reserve, but remember the \$17 million a couple lines
16 above that for the neighborhood recreation center construction, that would be a PDF.
17 But essentially what it is is carving out part of the reserve.

18
19 Councilmember Floreen,
20 It's a reserve. Yeah.

21
22 Glenn Orlin,
23 For those.

24
25 Councilmember Floreen,
26 Sure.

27
28 Glenn Orlin,
29 For extras. So, you can think of it as being really more like a \$351 million.

30
31 Councilmember Floreen,
32 350. Okay. And I'm trying to understand the issue of the current revenue issue. The
33 current revenue issue is the fact that current revenue is, we're worried about our --
34 revenue from the various mechanisms that we have devised over time to fund this CIP.

35
36
37 Glenn Orlin,
38 Right.

39
40 Councilmember Floreen,
41 Is that the issue?

42
43 Glenn Orlin,



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1 Yeah. There's, let me just, a little bit of background on this. There's cash, which it what
2 pays for most of the operating budget. In the CIP there's two forms of cash. There's
3 what we call current revenue, which is cash for projects which are in the CIP but which
4 we cannot use bond funds. We cannot borrow, planning, computers, mostly those two
5 categories. There's also Paygo, which is also cash in the CIP but that's for projects
6 which we could, if we wanted to, borrow money for. You're already assuming \$30 million
7 each year as the Executive has in Paygo.

8
9 Councilmember Floreen,
10 We're assuming 30 million?

11
12 Glenn Orlin,
13 Um hum.

14
15 Councilmember Floreen,
16 And that comes from what source?

17
18 Glenn Orlin,
19 That come from the, that's cash also.

20
21 Councilmember Floreen,
22 Yeah. Right.

23
24 Glenn Orlin,
25 But the reason why it's 30 million is because you have a policy which you adopted a
26 couple years ago which says that if you're going to borrow an amount, that we also want
27 to have in Paygo about 10-% of that. So we're borrowing \$300 million a year, that's the
28 spending affordability guidelines, and so the minimum that you would have as Paygo
29 would be 30 million a year. And really this is a, it's a message to the, to Wall Street
30 basically, saying that we're not going to just borrow money for everything we could
31 borrow money for. We're going to use cash for 10% of, in addition 10% of what we're
32 doing.

33
34 Councilmember Floreen,
35 And is this affected by the impact tax assumptions or the recordation tax assumptions
36 that we are now seeing as below projections?

37
38 Glenn Orlin,
39 Recordation tax and impact taxes are also both forms of current revenue.

40
41 Councilmember Floreen,
42 Yeah.

43
44 Glenn Orlin,



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1 They're in addition to this and they're built into the base more or less, but yes, the report
2 we gave you last week, which said that the recordation tax receipts over the next six
3 years is going to be about \$42 million less than what we thought.

4
5 Councilmember Floreen,
6 So we're losing \$42 million.

7
8 Glenn Orlin,
9 Losing \$42 million.

10
11 Councilmember Floreen,
12 On recordation?

13
14 Glenn Orlin,
15 Yeah, 36 of that from the recordation tax for schools and college IT and 6 million is the
16 tax that you adopted last fall which is for the County government CIP projects.

17
18 Councilmember Floreen,
19 So we're saying basically because of the slow down, we're anticipating a \$42 million
20 drop in revenue?

21
22 Glenn Orlin,
23 Right.

24
25 Councilmember Floreen,
26 How about on the impact tax side?

27
28 Glenn Orlin,
29 Impact taxes we have not changed the estimate, or finance has not given us a revised
30 estimate impact taxes since November. But November itself was lower than what it had
31 been in July.

32
33 Councilmember Floreen,
34 And what was.

35
36 Glenn Orlin,
37 And we are using those lower numbers.

38
39 Councilmember Floreen,
40 And how much lower was it?

41
42 Glenn Orlin,
43 Oh boy. I don't remember. I'm sorry. I'll find out for you, but it was, it's, I want to say it's
44 about a 20%, 25% lower, but I.



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1
2 Councilmember Floreen,
3 About.

4
5 Glenn Orlin,
6 I'll need to double check that.

7
8 Councilmember Floreen,
9 You think it's about 20 to 25%.

10
11 Glenn Orlin,
12 It's in that range.

13
14 Councilmember Floreen,
15 Percent lower than we anticipated?

16
17 Glenn Orlin,
18 Lower than in July.

19
20 Councilmember Floreen,
21 Yeah.

22
23 Glenn Orlin,
24 But for this whole CIP season, we've been using the same.

25
26 Councilmember Floreen,
27 Sure. Okay.

28
29 Glenn Orlin,
30 For school and transportation.

31
32 Councilmember Floreen,
33 Okay. When will we get revised numbers? Will we get revised numbers on that?

34
35 Glenn Orlin,
36 I don't believe so. I think we have the latest forecasts from finance on all the revenue
37 sources that we're using for the budget. Typically what we do when we do the May
38 reconciliation is, at least, I go back and look at what the collections have been in this
39 fiscal year and try to draw conclusions for the rest of this fiscal year, the last two months
40 and maybe FY09, but it's certainly no more than that. I wouldn't want to.

41
42 Councilmember Floreen,
43 So, but will we do another look see on this in May?



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1 Glenn Orlin,
2 A thorough look see, no. In terms of the six years, no. In terms of, as I was saying, a
3 look see in terms of what's been the, what has happened over the previous ten months,
4 you know.

5
6 Councilmember Floreen,
7 Yeah.

8
9 Glenn Orlin,
10 July through April, yes. And that might give us some guidance as to whether we think
11 we could program maybe a little more or we have to program less for the upcoming
12 year, maybe.

13
14 Councilmember Floreen,
15 So the implications with respect to projections from impact taxes and fees, we don't
16 know yet and we think we'll have a better number before we get to final reconciliation?
17 Well we certainly will for FY08. For example. Yeah.

18
19 Glenn Orlin,
20 If we find out.

21
22 Councilmember Floreen,
23 We'll know for sure.

24
25 Glenn Orlin,
26 Well, no, well, we'll still have two months to go. But I guess my point is, if we find out, it
27 would be nice, if we were collecting more money in the first ten months of FY08 than we
28 thought, then we could use that delta and apply it.

29
30 Councilmember Floreen,
31 Sure.

32
33 Glenn Orlin,
34 But we're not talking about a lot of money. Maybe you're talking a half million dollars, a
35 million dollars or something like be that.

36
37 Councilmember Floreen,
38 No, that's peanuts.

39
40 Glenn Orlin,
41 But we look for crumbs at reconciliation.

42
43 Councilmember Floreen,
44 Yeah.



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1
2 Glenn Orlin,
3 We look for everything we can.

4
5 Councilmember Floreen,
6 Yeah. Yeah. Now on the spending affordability guidelines and targets, that's the \$300
7 million a year that we set previously?

8
9 Glenn Orlin,
10 \$300 million. Yeah, literally you set, by law you set three guidelines, you set the FY09
11 guideline which is \$300 million, you set the FY10 guideline which is \$300 million, and
12 you set the six year total when is \$1.8 billion. And the reason why we use the terms.

13
14 Councilmember Floreen,
15 Six times three.

16
17 Glenn Orlin,
18 Guidelines and targets is because the FY11, '12, '13, and '14 are not legal markers.

19
20 Councilmember Floreen,
21 Yeah.

22
23 Glenn Orlin,
24 We call them targets instead of guidelines. But the Council, MFP particularly, but
25 particularly the Council has been trying to achieve a level CIP rather than one that is
26 bigger in the first couple of years and then drops because frankly that is unrealistic. And
27 so we try to set each year at much less the same, more or less the same level so that
28 you're not building in a problem for yourself next time we do this.

29
30 Councilmember Floreen,
31 Do we have any more flexibility with respect to the guidelines, the 300 number?

32
33 Glenn Orlin,
34 You don't have any flexibility with the guideline itself. You have all the flexibility in the
35 world if you find seven votes.

36
37 Councilmember Floreen,
38 In terms of the 300. Yeah. So, that's a seven vote.

39
40 Glenn Orlin,
41 Yes.

42
43 Councilmember Floreen,
44 Vote issue.



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1
2 Council President Knapp,
3 Right.

4
5 Glenn Orlin,
6 What I'm trying to say is that if you have seven votes in May, you can adopt whatever
7 size program you want with whatever consequences you think that's going to have.

8
9 Councilmember Floreen,
10 Now, one of the, yeah, we'll see what the numbers are, one of the concerns I have, Mr.
11 President, is the focus on the reserve here which I don't think is, it's not unwarranted as
12 far as I'm concerned to look at this this way. Most of these, and I will hearken back to
13 the OLO report on funding infrastructure and getting better numbers, and to a certain
14 degree, and only to a certain degree, this effort has recognized that until projects have
15 gone through facility planning, they're really not quite ready for full funding. And I'd say
16 it's a bumpy road that we've looked at here. But at least there's some rationale for some
17 of the approaches recommended here. But my question is this, it seems to me that if we
18 are assuming that the reserve it going to be available to fund things as they are
19 complete in design, as they are complete in planning, we should establish, I think, a
20 legislative rule that says that the projects have to go through a CIP facility planning
21 process before they have access to the reserve. Because otherwise what you're doing
22 is saying don't bother. The rules are, the real money, or a significant portion of it is in the
23 reserve. And all bets are off. And I am concerned about that. If we're going to work hard
24 over establishing some principles for the community here and for ourselves, it seems to
25 me that it would be worthwhile to memorialize that because otherwise, well, we've got a
26 rash of requests, proposals to fund things through the reserve right this minute, as I
27 recall, sitting on my desk downstairs. And while it's fine and dandy for them to be
28 proposed, the question is the process. Especially where, I'm sure Public Safety feels
29 this way with respect to fire stations, I certainly feel this way with respect to
30 transportation initiatives, I feel that if we are going to collectively agree to the
31 fundamental principal and not put the funding for construction in, we should agree that
32 when these projects are ready, they will have fair access to that reserve amount.
33 Because, and if we do not state that in, I think in a legislative format, I believe that
34 there's, if I weren't sitting here, or maybe even if I were, I'd say, well, how interesting,
35 they've done, they've segregated some of these projects out and that means that more
36 money is available for something that has not gone through the process. Now of course,
37 I would never think that anyone would think that way, really. But I can see the appeal
38 under the circumstances. So, I would like to propose that we do encapsulate such a
39 policy in writing here, either through possibly, I don't know that we have a CIP
40 legislation, per se. But in terms of how we are handling this, I'm seeing this already as
41 we started to go over the operating budget, where policies that this Council has adopted
42 by resolution are not relevant to, at least with respect to the Housing Initiative Fund, the
43 County Executive. And I'm worried that what we're doing here which is trying to be very
44 careful with respect to the reserve and our commitment towards focusing on design and



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1 facility planning, has a potential to be completely undercut. I mean, I could say, well,
2 you know, I really have issues with transportation funding because now it's down more
3 than it's ever been in history. But I know that we have a reserve and we have a program
4 for getting these projects ready to go. And when they're ready to go, we'll have that final
5 call. And as I said, I'm sure Public Safety would have exactly the same concern with
6 respect to the fire stations. Okay, this is how we're doing it and when it's ready, it will
7 come back or when the site is found, whatever it is, these are the conditions under
8 which we will consider. But in the absence of that, I'm really a little concerned about this.

9
10 Council President Knapp,
11 If I might, Councilmember Floreen. I don't disagree as part of the things that we started
12 our conversation about a month or so ago kind of talked about those types of guidelines
13 and principals.

14
15 Councilmember Floreen,
16 Yep.

17
18 Council President Knapp,
19 I didn't get a sense from the Councilmembers at that time that they wanted to kind of be
20 that hard and fast, even to your point as it relates to the, exceeding the spending
21 affordability. Seven votes of the Council allows to you do that. And I know that
22 Councilmembers generally want to retain a measure of flexibility. But assumed in here,
23 implicit in this is that, we've talked about fire station, we've talked about libraries that we
24 know where this Council's priorities are and so as those projects, and we continue to
25 push those projects, come forward, they will, transportation, that they will be funded. To
26 the extent that there is language that Councilmembers want to propose to try to, we
27 have time to do that., we won't necessarily resolve that today, I'd be amenable to
28 entertaining that and seeing if.

29
30 Councilmember Floreen,
31 Okay.

32
33 Council President Knapp,
34 The Council can reach agreement on that.

35
36 Councilmember Floreen,
37 Well.

38
39 Council President Knapp,
40 I think that would be.

41
42 Councilmember Floreen,
43 When we get to the final, certainly, you know, this won't get really finalized until the end
44 of May.



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1
2 Council President Knapp,
3 Right. Right.

4
5 Councilmember Floreen,
6 But I would like to propose that.

7
8 Council President Knapp,
9 Okay.

10
11 Councilmember Floreen,
12 And ask my colleagues to work with me to formulate the appropriate language. There's
13 no question that things come along. But at this moment in time what is the number?
14 \$363, \$351million? It sounds like a lot. But if you add up the costs of all these projects.

15
16 Council President Knapp,
17 It gets to 363 the other way.

18
19 Councilmember Floreen,
20 And the, well, or more.

21
22 Council President Knapp,
23 Or more.

24
25 Councilmember Floreen,
26 We don't even know what else is hiding out there or, you know, what other new idea
27 might come along that might be compelling. And I would like us to perhaps work with
28 the MFP Committee to come up with a way to address those concerns. Because we
29 are, you know, every, this proposal here is asking for a tremendous compromise
30 position from most of us.

31
32 Council President Knapp,
33 All of us.

34
35 Councilmember Floreen,
36 Certainly the delay on school facilities, as far as I'm concerned, tremendous cuts in
37 transportation, significant, well, and certainly with respect to Public Safety, I'd say those
38 of the three that are most clearly at play here. And they're huge dollars. Huge dollars.
39 And all of which address needs of a different sort in different parts of the County with
40 unresolved implications. No question about that. But as I said, I would like to ask for
41 support, your support, the MFP Committee's support, and anyone else's support on
42 working on a proposal to make that clear. Because otherwise.

43
44 Council President Knapp,



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1 Right. Understood.

2
3 Councilmember Floreen,
4 This is just an academic exercise and frankly, I'm tired of such exercises.

5
6 Council President Knapp,
7 Councilmember Trachtenberg.

8
9 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
10 I feel obligated to respond to the comments made by my colleague, Councilmember
11 Floreen. We've had some conversations within the MFP Committee. I think the issue
12 that's been raised has been one around flexibility, which of course was echoed by the
13 Council President just a few moments ago. And what I would suggest is that, despite a
14 rather intense schedule of worksessions, perhaps we can add this to the agenda, not
15 this week but maybe starting next week and Nancy, I think what would be a good idea is
16 for you to work with staff on any proposals, proposed language.

17
18 Councilmember Floreen,
19 I'll put something together.

20
21 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
22 I might have some ideas but I would agree that probably additional clarification is
23 important but I just want to make sure we're not trying our hands because again.

24
25 Councilmember Floreen,
26 Oh yeah. I appreciate that.

27
28 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
29 I very much see the situation changing.

30
31 Council President Knapp,
32 Okay. Councilmember Leventhal.

33
34 Councilmember Leventhal,
35 Thank you. I have a number of questions. I'll try to be brief. Mr. President, first of all, I
36 want to acknowledge and appreciate the work that you're doing presiding over what
37 we're facing. You've prioritized some things in ways that I think are wise and painful at
38 the same time. So I'm very cognizant of the tug-of-war that you have to go through to
39 make all of these things fit and I just appreciate your leadership. So I want to commend
40 you. And Glenn who I know has put together all the options for you, so I think the two of
41 you have masterfully gotten us to this place. I have a number of questions, first of all,
42 with respect to the colloquy between the Chairs of the transportation infrastructure,
43 Energy and Environment Committee, and Management and Fiscal Policy Committee, I
44 would like to understand exactly which Committee in your judgment, Mr. President, has



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1 jurisdiction over the management and timing of construction of large capital projects
2 now? I'm not clear actually which Committee is responsible for that.

3
4 Councilmember Floreen,
5 That's a good point.

6
7 Council President Knapp,
8 That's an excellent question.

9
10 Councilmember Floreen,
11 That's a good point.

12
13 Councilmember Leventhal,
14 Right.

15
16 Councilmember Floreen,
17 We'll have to sort that out.

18
19 Councilmember Leventhal,
20 Okay, well, maybe we won't sort it out today.

21
22 Council President Knapp,
23 Yeah, I was going to say, because we have the pending legislation as to how the
24 government reorganization has handled exactly those projects.

25
26 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
27 And it's spread between three Committees.

28
29 Council President Knapp,
30 It's spread between three Committees. And it.

31
32 Councilmember Leventhal,
33 How is it spread between three Committees? I don't follow that.

34
35 Council President Knapp,
36 We have three Committees that are actually working on the reorganization piece
37 because the parts that are being combined are in three different places.

38
39 Councilmember Leventhal,
40 Okay, well, as I understood it.

41
42 Councilmember Floreen,
43 [indiscernible].



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1 Councilmember Leventhal,

2 Well, maybe I'll just let the point sit there. Maybe it doesn't need to be resolved this
3 morning. I think there actually, I think what the Council President had intended was that
4 there had been a change there.

5
6 Council President Knapp,

7 We're getting to a change. But it's also incumbent upon us actually acting on the
8 legislation that has sent to us by the Executive. So there is a little bit of flux there.

9
10 Councilmember Leventhal,

11 All right, well, it leads me then to my next question which really needs to be directed, I
12 guess, I'm going to say Director Holmes who's here in the audience. But the real
13 question is Hamid, I mean, how much can Hamid really do? And that's a small question
14 that gets to the larger issue that I think Ms. Floreen was pointing out and it gets to the
15 decision that you're making here. That is, one of the major ways you've made all this fit
16 is by saying that we will program design and planning money. And that we will have a
17 large reserve and that when these things get out of design and planning, then we'll have
18 capacity in the reserve to go to construction. And that's a major shift from, as the
19 Council President pointed out, from what some Councilmembers had expressed was
20 their desire. But it is more consistent, I think, with how these things are actually going to
21 work. Because, there was a mathematical term that we used about the realization ratio
22 or something, what was the word that we used to?

23
24 Glenn Orlin,

25 Implementation rate?

26
27 Councilmember Leventhal,

28 Implementation, yeah, that, you know, we can put all these things in a document, but
29 there are only 24 hours in a day, seven days in a week, 52 weeks in a year and, you
30 know, Hamid does need to sleep a couple hours a night, you know, at least three or four
31 hours a night. And I don't mean to just pick on Hamid, but, you know, he's overseeing
32 an enormous number of these things and it isn't just him. I don't mean to suggest that
33 it's just him. But we don't have the capacity to bring all these things on line in the
34 timeframe that we're hoping that they will come on line. And so I just wanted to make all
35 those observations. And so to state that these things automatically, as Ms. Floreen
36 expressed the hope, that we would adopt a policy that when they're ready we'll build
37 them, assumes that we have the capacity to build them not just the bonding capacity,
38 but the staff capacity. And I'm not certain that we do. So we just have to watch that. And
39 in whichever Committee we watch it, which gets to my other concern, which was the
40 concern that was stated at last week's session and the Examiner wrote a whole story
41 about it, which is, what is the desire of the Executive Branch to bring these things on
42 line speedily and timely when it requires spending of real money? And so, to some
43 extent, I agree with Ms. Floreen that if it is the Council's desire to make sure that these
44 things happen timely, that the rec centers that Action Montgomery is here mobilizing in



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1 support of, that the libraries that communities are waiting for, Gaithersburg may be at
2 the top of the list, Silver Spring may be, you know, next, that actually happen in a
3 reasonable timeframe, you know, in the course of this six year plan. Is the Executive
4 Branch with us? Will they indeed, we can adopt all the policies we want. But will they
5 indeed move these things and spend the money that will be required to spend them? I'm
6 a little nervous. I support your leadership and I'm going vote for your CIP. Okay? I
7 remain a little nervous about a policy direction that requires us to wait for the Executive
8 Branch to send us supplementals. Because, I'm not clear on whether, there will always
9 be a tension between getting things done that communities want and putting them in the
10 ground and not spending money, which also appears to be, you know, a high priority, of
11 necessity but maybe not of necessity. I'm just not clear whether, and I have to say this, I
12 mean, there was, we, there had been a lot of talk in the last few years about slowing
13 down to catch up. Well, slowing down the economy is taking care of that for us.
14 Everything has slowed way down. The question is now is there the real political will to
15 catch up? Are we actually going build this infrastructure that we're promising the public
16 through the adoption of this document that we are going to build? And that's a question
17 of political will. And so you and Glenn have moved more in the direction of relying upon
18 the political will to actually make these things happen when they're ready to go. And
19 that's a follow on to Ms. Floreen's point, but I don't know that adopt, I think it's going to
20 take continual bird-dogging on the part of the Council on a project by project basis. You
21 could adopt a uniform policy that would, in effect, restate what is obvious, when these
22 things are ready to be built, we should build them, that's what I understand Ms. Floreen
23 to be saying.

24
25 Councilmember Floreen,
26 A little more detail.

27
28 Councilmember Leventhal,
29 Okay. But at the same time, you have to have, first of all, you have to have the staff
30 capacity which is not a question of political of will, it's a question of resources. It takes
31 people, it takes project management. And we centralized a great deal of authority in a
32 very small number of extraordinarily capable people. But they can only do so much.
33 There's only so many, as I said, hours in a day. And then there's the political will. Are
34 we, in fact, interested in catching up? Are we actually willing to spend money on
35 infrastructure? And that's the challenge. And so the direction that you and Glenn are
36 going places more responsibility on an Executive Branch which to date has not been,
37 you know, building infrastructure, in fact, has not been, you know, top on its priorities
38 list. So that's a concern for me. If we say we'll just trust them to ask them for the money
39 when they need it, there's a trust question there.

40
41 Council President Knapp,
42 If I might, now I understand your first question better and I think that it's going to be, at
43 least from my own personal experience in district projects that I've been interested in
44 over the last five and a half years, there is a necessary requirement and commitment on



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1 the part of the Council to probably more actively engage in a concerted way as to
2 saying, these are our priorities and we expect these projects to move forward. And I
3 guess, to the point that Mr. Elrich raises a lot over the course of the last month or so is, I
4 think if the commitment of this Council to say these are projects we want to have
5 funded, now, how do we continue to have a process in place that allows us to make
6 sure that the planning design element actually gets to us a point that we can fund these
7 projects and make sure that our fire stations, our police stations, our libraries are
8 actually ready to go? Actually, I have noted significant frustration in doing this, that I
9 would have liked to do some things with our police stations that, quite honestly, our
10 hands are tied, there's not much that we can do anything. We could put numbers any
11 place but it's not going to accelerate anything because we don't make those decisions.
12 So I think it is going to require a bird-dogging activity, as you said, on the Committees of
13 jurisdiction to make sure that we continue to say these are our priorities and we want to
14 see these things there and available to be funded.

15
16 Councilmember Leventhal,

17 Okay. And then, I'm sorry to be redundant, but I do want to highlight for the audience
18 two points that were made earlier. Okay. I agree with Ms. Floreen that the fact that the
19 policy direction you and Glenn are going with this document creates a larger reserve.
20 That does not mean there is more money in the reserve available for projects not in this
21 document. It places a great deal of pressure on the reserve to fund the things that are in
22 this document.

23
24 Council President Knapp,
25 Exactly.

26
27 Councilmember Leventhal,

28 And that's a very important point. The second point you made, and I just want to
29 highlight it as well, we don't have before us the statement of what the Council thinks is
30 important. So you have to, you have to keep up with the story here. You have to have
31 all the previous documents, you have to have Ike's document, and you have to have
32 every piece of our documents, and you have to have the minutes that show all of our
33 votes. So I'm just restating what you said, but it's important for the press who are writing
34 about this and for the activists in the audience who are interested in this and those who
35 may be watching at home, we don't have in front of us what the Council has said it
36 wants to do. We don't have in front of us the fact that we are reaffirming our
37 commitment to the Bethesda South Metro entrance, we don't have in front of us the fact
38 that we are programming funds to build the four community centers that Action
39 Montgomery and these various communities are.

40
41 Council President Knapp,
42 We do have that.

43
44 Councilmember Leventhal,



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1 Stating are important. We have, well, just, we don't have the exact dollars and the exact
2 years that they're programmed.

3
4 Council President Knapp,
5 Right.

6
7 Councilmember Leventhal,
8 So, with the commitment to the Gaithersburg Library and the Silver Spring Library,
9 you're stating that we're doing them. But the scope of this thing has yet to be published.
10 So if you were a reporter writing about this, you would need to piece a lot of things
11 together. This document itself doesn't.

12
13 Council President Knapp,
14 Right.

15
16 Councilmember Leventhal,
17 What it states is the things that we are cutting.

18
19 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
20 George is available.

21
22 Councilmember Leventhal,
23 Glenn. Glenn.

24
25 Glenn Orlin,
26 I am too. I am too.

27
28 Councilmember Leventhal,
29 Yeah. What it states is the things that we're cutting. So that if you take away from this,
30 oh my gosh, we're walking away from a commitment to invest in infrastructure, very
31 much to the contrary.

32
33 Council President Knapp,
34 Yeah.

35
36 Councilmember Leventhal,
37 What the Council has done is we have expedited things that are important to us, that
38 had not been expedited, several things, I mean, dozens of things, that had not been
39 expedited under the spending framework that was sent to us by the County Executive.

40
41 Glenn Orlin,
42 If I could add one point, which sort of reinforces what you're saying, and it's a nuisance,
43 but all the design monies are bond funded. That's really important because you go to
44 straight to fiscal jail, metaphorically, if you use bond funding for something that doesn't



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1 result in an asset. So we're not going to be, if you're showing design funds for a rec
2 center or a library, whatever, it really is a commitment that something will be done. Now
3 you don't know exactly what's going to be done. That's part of what the design is going
4 to be. And you don't know necessarily when it's going to be done. It may be that you
5 finished design and then when you're looking at all the things that you've finished
6 designed, you realize, oh, I can't start all these projects next year. I may have to stagger
7 them. But it is a commitment that you're going to build something. Because otherwise
8 we cannot be, we should not be, certainly, and I think we cannot be using bond funds
9 and we are .

10
11 Council President Knapp,
12 Right. Councilmember Berliner.

13
14 Councilmember Berliner,
15 Thank you Council President. Let me add my own praise of your effort here to bring to
16 us this point. I think you've established a very good framework. I do have some
17 questions with respect to it. And both specific questions as well as process questions.
18 Because I note your final line on your first page of your memo says final reconciliation
19 will still occur in May but it should be of a technical nature dealing with small changes.
20 And at this moment in time, I'm not comfortable in saying that the only changes that I
21 may recommend to our colleagues between now and then are small changes.

22
23 Council President Knapp,
24 Right.

25
26 Councilmember Berliner,
27 So I would appreciate your thoughts with respect to that.

28
29 Council President Knapp,
30 I think the point there is that we went from a macro problem of \$363 million above to
31 something that provides a framework and a significant reserve and, I think there can still
32 be some jockeying within what we're talking about, but I think that to get, the point is to
33 not end up back at the \$363 million overage.

34
35 Councilmember Berliner,
36 Assuming that we kept the dollars basically the same, if pieces came in and pieces
37 moved out, that would be something that obviously all my colleagues.

38
39 Council President Knapp,
40 Right.

41
42 Councilmember Berliner,
43 Or the majority of the colleague was have to agree to.



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1 Council President Knapp,

2 At the end of the day, we still have to approve a final budget and a final reconciliation,
3 which will require at least six, seven, or eight Councilmembers depending upon what
4 framework that budget takes.

5
6 Councilmember Berliner,

7 I appreciate that. Let me also commend you with respect to your commitment on the rec
8 centers in particular and going the extra mile in establishing a separate and special
9 reserve fund just for it. With respect to the numbers and the dollars that you have
10 committed to that, you and I spoke earlier today, Dr. Orlin, my understanding is that
11 you've budgeted in that reserve, that special reserve account, \$17 million which I'm led
12 to believe is approximately two-thirds of that which has been estimated to be necessary.
13 Can you share with us why you chose to go two-thirds as opposed to putting in the full
14 \$26 million at this moment for that special reserve.

15
16 Glenn Orlin,

17 Sure. Mr. Knapp said so. No. [laughter].

18
19 Councilmember Berliner,

20 That's a good reason and we will take that up as well.

21
22 Glenn Orlin,

23 His rationale was as follows.

24
25 Council President Knapp,

26 The rationale was.

27
28 Glenn Orlin,

29 His rationale was.

30
31 Council President Knapp,

32 The rationale was that we are still trying to figure out what the number is.

33
34 Glenn Orlin,

35 Right.

36
37 Council President Knapp,

38 And since It has moved only about six different times since we've started having this
39 conversation, we tried to pick a number that we thought was a real and legitimate
40 number that we knew we would spend and making sure that we had the additional
41 reserve capacity if we had to find an additional four or five million dollars, if that's what it
42 turns out to be, that's not a number that's a difficult number for us.

43
44 Glenn Orlin,



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1 And another thing about this reserve, if for some reason the four rec centers come in
2 aggregately above \$17 million, and it continues to be a very high priority with the
3 Council, that doesn't mean you are limited to \$17 million, it just means you use the \$17
4 million and then you can dip into the rest of the reserve for the rest. I just wanted to, and
5 I wanted to make sure that there was clear, that that wasn't, that the monies for the rec
6 centers was not competing against any other project in the reserve, that that was set
7 aside specifically and walled off.

8
9 Councilmember Berliner,
10 Yes.

11
12 Council President Knapp,
13 And we just didn't know, I mean, we are still making up the number because we don't
14 know because we don't have enough feedback from our folks yet as to what the right
15 number is.

16
17 Councilmember Berliner,
18 And I again, appreciate your walling it off so that it doesn't have to compete with others.
19 But it would, in fact, have to compete with others if it goes beyond the 17 as I appreciate
20 that.

21
22 Glenn Orlin,
23 Above 17 would have to compete with others, that's right.

24
25 Councilmember Berliner,
26 And my experience in these matters is these numbers don't go down.

27
28 Council President Knapp,
29 That's a fair point.

30
31 Councilmember Berliner,
32 I would ask my colleagues to consider and the Council President to consider going back
33 to the 26 million for that reserve so that we aren't in fact competing. I believe it's a real
34 more realistic estimate. I believe the number could end up being above that 26 million,
35 but I believe that that would give this community comfort that since we are not doing this
36 in the way in which we're showing on the PDF line items for construction, since we are
37 using a reserve for this purpose, albeit a special reserve that doesn't have to compete, I
38 think it would be important to have the full, the best estimate we have at this moment in
39 time as opposed to two-thirds of that best estimate. So I would ask for you to consider
40 that. With respect to two other items, and I wish my colleague Councilmember
41 Leventhal was here, I wanted to have a little more conversation with respect to the
42 Bethesda Metro. I want to share as someone who is a supporter of the Purple Line, and
43 I'm glad you're here Councilmember Leventhal, as someone who is a supporter of the
44 Purple Line and who believes that the Bethesda Metro would be a critical piece to the



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1 Purple Line, I continue to have reservations as I've shared with my colleague previously
2 about using what I understand, and Glenn, could you tell me what the number is, it's not
3 reflected here, but I believe it's something on the order of \$50 million.

4
5 Glenn Orlin,
6 It's \$55 million more.

7
8 Councilmember Berliner,
9 So, 55 million, and I appreciate that that \$55 million is from a special fund. It doesn't
10 compete.

11
12 Glenn Orlin,
13 It's general obligation bonds. But what Mr. Leventhal had also recommended and the
14 Committee agreed was that the \$55 million in the state transportation participation
15 project would be reduced by that same amount.

16
17 Councilmember Berliner,
18 I understand. But it still takes up, as I appreciate and correct me if I'm wrong, \$55 million
19 worth of capacity of the dollars that we have available to spend. Is that a fair statement?

20
21 Glenn Orlin,
22 Yeah.

23
24 Councilmember Berliner,
25 Okay. So that when we're not doing some projects, we are doing this. And my hesitation
26 with respect.

27
28 Glenn Orlin,
29 And again this case is reducing the state transportation participation project which in
30 itself is considered as sort of a transportation reserve for certain kinds of projects. That
31 reserve was reduced by 55 million and replaced by this 55 million that Mr. Leventhal
32 identified. So it's, within the two projects, it's not a net add.

33
34 Councilmember Berliner,
35 I apologize. Say that again for me.

36
37 Glenn Orlin,
38 Okay. The state transportation participation project is a set aside of \$160 some million.
39 And \$80 million of that is funded with general obligation bonds usually in the later years
40 of the CIP, \$80 million is revenue bonds from the liquor fund. That is for projects which
41 essentially the County is trying to encourage the state to investment more money on
42 their projects. And we have to have some kind of an agreement between them. What
43 the decision that the Committee recommended and the Council approved up to this
44 point is to reduce that project by \$55 million, particularly 55 from the 80 million of GO



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1 bonds and use it instead for the Bethesda South entrance. So between those two
2 projects, it's a wash.

3
4 Councilmember Berliner,

5 Yes. And in the context in which I'm asking this question is whether or not that 55 million
6 counts against the capacity that we have available for projects to fund?

7
8 Glenn Orlin,

9 Sure. Just as.

10
11 Councilmember Berliner,

12 Just as any other project.

13
14 Glenn Orlin,

15 Just as the \$80 million, if it stayed in the state transportation project that would have
16 counted against every other project.

17
18 Councilmember Berliner,

19 If it were used it would count against it?

20
21 Glenn Orlin,

22 Right.

23
24 Councilmember Berliner,

25 Okay. So we are, and my concern that I've shared with my colleague before is not
26 whether or not I'm a supporter of the Purple Line. It is that we don't have a
27 recommendation from the state yet. We don't have a recommendation from the federal
28 government yet. And in my judgment, we would probably not fund this project as a
29 stand alone project. Now, that can be debated. But I seriously doubt whether we would
30 spend \$55 million on a project for a second entrance to the Metro Station in the
31 absence of the Purple Line. To commit these dollars in this CIP, which I believe has the
32 effect of squeezing out other projects because of its use of capacity.

33
34 Glenn Orlin,

35 It squeezes it out only if you were willing to reduce the state transportation participation
36 project by the same amount. Again, the state transportation participation project had all
37 this money in it.

38
39 Council President Knapp,

40 It's already in as a placeholder.

41
42 Glenn Orlin,

43 It's already in it.



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1 Councilmember Berliner,
2 Yes.

3
4 Glenn Orlin,
5 And that was in the approved CIP. The Committee, Mr. Leventhal recommended and
6 the Committee agreed to take \$55 million out of that project and move it into this other
7 project. And so it's.

8
9 Councilmember Berliner,
10 Okay. So, I'm a little slow but I'm getting there.

11
12 Glenn Orlin,
13 That's probably. Ms. Floreen.

14
15 Council President Knapp,
16 Hold on. Well actually, no, I would like to.

17
18 Councilmember Berliner,
19 I have another question.

20
21 Council President Knapp,
22 Get Mr. Elrich only because Mr. Elrich hasn't had any comments yet. Do you have?
23 Further. Does that clarify your question?

24
25 Councilmember Berliner,
26 It's beginning to clarify that question. Yes.

27
28 Council President Knapp,
29 Okay.

30
31 Councilmember Berliner,
32 Let me also ask about Montrose East and the proposal to delay that. There has been,
33 as you know Glenn, suggestions from the Chairman of Park and Planning that this is
34 probably not the best project. My question to you is whether or not the delay would
35 allow this Council to get more information from Park and Planning and more information
36 with respect to the relationship of the White Flint sector plan which I know we've
37 discussed before.

38
39 Glenn Orlin,
40 Yeah. I think that there may be two different projects you may be mixing up here.

41
42 Councilmember Berliner,
43 I'm sorry.



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1 Glenn Orlin,
2 The Montrose East.

3
4 Councilmember Berliner,
5 Montrose East.

6
7 Glenn Orlin,
8 Yeah, Montrose East is the section between Parklawn Drive and Veers Mill Road.

9
10 Councilmember Berliner,
11 Yes.

12
13 Glenn Orlin,
14 The section of Montrose Parkway, which is, think of it as being in four parts, the part
15 that the Chairman has raised an issue about is the one that is actually about to go under
16 construction by the state and the Council has already put up 14 and a half million dollars
17 to accelerate, which is the interchange of Montrose Parkway with Rockville Pike.

18
19 Councilmember Berliner,
20 Okay. So that's not what this piece is about.

21
22 Glenn Orlin,
23 That's not this piece. This is further east.

24
25 Councilmember Berliner,
26 Thank you.

27
28 Council President Knapp,
29 Okay. Councilmember Elrich. Marc. Microphone. Thank you.

30
31 Councilmember Elrich,
32 I have a bunch of questions. I hope you guys will bear with me. I'm, I started out wanting
33 a CIP that was understandable and had some certainty to it. And I'm still not sure what's
34 certain in this CIP. So I have some concerns here. My first starting question I guess is,
35 how close are we to the brink of 10% of operating revenue?

36
37 Glenn Orlin,
38 Under the \$300 million assumption that the Council approved by the sixth year you are
39 right at the brink. I think it was 9.99% if memory serves.

40
41 Councilmember Elrich,
42 So basically we don't have much to play around with even if we wanted to?

43
44 Glenn Orlin,



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1 I would say, yeah, none to play with in terms of the current forecasts. If you raised it,
2 even by a million dollars, you probably would be over 10%.

3
4 Councilmember Elrich,

5 Okay. Conceptually the reserve, which I was going to ask you about anyway under the
6 old scenario, was both meant for cost overruns and for the invention of new ideas that
7 were going to be turned into projects.

8
9 Glenn Orlin,

10 And thirdly for projects which are in development which would emerge within the six
11 year period. Right.

12
13 Councilmember Elrich,

14 So there was this pot of money that was set aside for those kind of things to which
15 we've now assigned \$363 million of overage. And so how does that fit with, I mean,
16 what is really going to be available if you make any kind of realistic assumptions, for
17 example, about cost overruns or about the normal things that were draws on the
18 reserve? It seems to me we've simply created a larger reserve, ignored the historic
19 function of the reserve, and said that everything that we wanted certainty to fund is not
20 going to be covered by the reserve. Is this real?

21
22 Glenn Orlin,

23 Well, first of all, I have to say that, in fact, the way the Executive sent the CIP over and
24 the way this reconciliation has it is more of the way it has been done rather than actually
25 showing the full costs. Secondly, the projects that are being developed by DPWT now,
26 the building projects, the school, the, I'm sorry, the park, the libraries, rec centers, police
27 stations, fire stations, are being done differently than what they had been, you know,
28 two years ago and further back. They're now forecasting the cost to the mid-point of
29 construction. It used to be that, like every other project in the CIP, it was forecast in
30 FY09 or FY10 dollars and the inflation was assumed to be captured by the inflation
31 adjustment in the macro for the CIP. But that inflation adjustment has never been
32 sufficient enough to capture these construction cost increases. So they've now gone to
33 a.

34
35 Councilmember Elrich,
36 Right.

37
38 Glenn Orlin,

39 Format of looking at mid-point of construction and to be terribly literal about it, they
40 actually back out then the other adjustments so you don't have double accounting. So
41 they are less likely to have at least the big construction cost increases that they've had
42 in the past. Now until you have enough design done to know what it is that you're doing,
43 you really don't know what the cost is going to be. It could be up, down, all over the



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1 place. So until you have the scope settled and you have the parcel that you know you're
2 going to put it on.

3
4 Councilmember Elrich,
5 Right.

6
7 Glenn Orlin,
8 Set, and you know what the price of that is, you're really not going to have a reliable
9 cost estimate.

10
11 Councilmember Elrich,
12 That doesn't help me feel any more comfortable that there is enough money in this
13 reserve to fund the things that we're bouncing out of the, or the overage we created that
14 we're bouncing in there, that you're actually going to be able to fund it. I mean, I
15 understand there's uncertainty, but it seems to me that the numbers we've put in there
16 don't allow any uncertainty.

17
18 Glenn Orlin,
19 Yeah. This isn't about absolutes. The total amount of reserve being higher by, you
20 know, at 351 rather than 279 means there's more things that could be funded. But
21 you're absolutely right, there's no way we could fund everything which is in development
22 right now within the six year period. We're off by probably a magnitude.

23
24 Councilmember Elrich,
25 I was going to say, 279 to 351 is what, \$72 million, and we added 363. I mean, you can
26 see my concern here? I mean, we're going to say we're going to do 363 but we're only
27 increasing the reserve by 72.

28
29 Glenn Orlin,
30 You're not going to do 363 because you're actually, if you go with this reconciliation.

31
32 Councilmember Elrich,
33 Minus the schools.

34
35 Glenn Orlin,
36 You're delaying actually a lot of money beyond six years.

37
38 Council President Knapp,
39 Right.

40
41 Glenn Orlin,
42 So it's, you are pushing a lot of money out. That's how we were able to get a larger
43 reserve. But there is actually other projects which are in facility planning which could
44 emerge for design and construction within the, by fiscal year '14.



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1
2 Councilmember Elrich,
3 Then, I'll tell you two things. Yes.

4
5 Council President Knapp,
6 Ms. Floreen had raised, because then it's a matter of us trying to determine and
7 manage which ones we want to make sure come forward.

8
9 Councilmember Elrich,
10 Two things that would have been helpful, one is we're beyond that point now, but I
11 would have liked to see, and for future years, I'd like to see ongoing tracking of what the
12 Council Committees put in the budget, not the changes, but the actual dollar amounts.
13 Because if I'm trying to decide what projects fit or what don't, looking at plus \$400,000
14 and minus three million dollars really doesn't get to the issue of should I delay this
15 project or should I not delay this project. I think that would have been helpful to have
16 had that on an ongoing basis. With that said, it would be helpful to know what
17 assumptions or taking this \$363 million or whatever your assuming for going to this
18 reserve fund, I'd like to see what projects we assume will be built in the reserve fund
19 and what the approximate schedules are given what we know about when they're going
20 to be designed. Is that, I mean, is it possible to lay out the hypothetical drawn on the
21 reserve?

22
23 Glenn Orlin,
24 There are probably thousands of hypotheticals of that, because the problem with this is
25 that we don't know when a project really is going to get out of design. We can program
26 the money for a couple years and it could take longer because stuff happens. We don't
27 know what the cost is going to be coming out of that. There are estimates that DPWT
28 can produce right now. But they'll have, for their projects, for example, not to single on
29 them, but they're going to have a wide range in terms of low to high. In fact, one of the
30 things we asked, you might recall, last year, it was the last CIP and one of the principals
31 we asked for this year is when we put a project in for design, we asked for a range.

32
33 Councilmember Elrich,
34 Right.

35
36 Glenn Orlin,
37 To be put in the text, not on the expenditure schedule, and that range often can be
38 pretty wide. So it's really, I don't think it's frankly possible to do that for those reasons.
39 All we can say is that marginally, maybe more than marginally, but less than, certainly
40 less than 100% of these projects will be able to be funded within six years, even with a
41 reserve that is bigger by \$72 million or so. So it's, it just means you can do more. How
42 much more, which ones, goes back to what Mr. Knapp was saying earlier, or someone
43 else, maybe it was Mr. Leventhal, about how quickly these projects get through design
44 and are presented to the Council as being ready for construction. And a lot of it has to



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1 do with the amount. I wasn't kidding when I said that a project that is finished with
2 design can come to the Council, and let's say it costs \$100 million. You say, whoa,
3 that's a lot of money, now let's think in terms of when we really want to start
4 construction. We don't necessarily have to start construction right away. You might say
5 let's start construction in two years and move from there because you are, when you're
6 prioritizing things, you're not just prioritizing which projects, you're prioritizing when.

7
8 Councilmember Elrich,
9 Right.

10
11 Glenn Orlin,
12 Because otherwise you just can't fit everything. So all these decisions have to get made
13 incrementally as they come forward and then every two years when you look at the
14 whole thing.

15
16 Councilmember Elrich,
17 I guess, I mean, we need to deal I think with the planning and design and the
18 implantation process. A, the implementation rate is not really acceptable. It is way too
19 low. And we need to look at whether we even need permanent staff for the ability to be
20 flexible in bringing on additional design people for projects that we can build because,
21 frankly, you can do like this and this is money, but every year you delay a project is also
22 money. Every time we sit on \$100 million project and we bump it back one year, if
23 you're lucky and you're dealing with five to eight percent construction inflation, maybe
24 you've only added \$8 million to the project. But if you bump it back and you hit, like
25 we've just gone through, a cycle of 15% annual inflation in construction, then you're
26 adding \$15 million to the project. So I would rather hire an architect and bring the staff
27 on board to pump the projects out and be able to build them than to say, well, we'll just
28 defer them and get to them later because we're just making it more expensive to get to.

29
30 Glenn Orlin,
31 Frankly, one of the.

32
33 Councilmember Elrich,
34 We've talked about it, how long, how much off our estimates are when we go from the
35 longer of the delay from design to implementation and it seems to me we need to
36 shorten that timeframe. And it would be one thing if we didn't have the money, but if
37 you've got the money and you're not implementing, you're not spending, then we're not
38 doing ourselves any favor. We're just simply not spending the money but we're creating
39 a headache down the road for ourselves and I'd like to see us, you know, businesses
40 don't operate this way.

41
42 Glenn Orlin,
43 Right. Historically, one of the reasons why the school system has done so well in the
44 CIP is because they've done very well in implementation.



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1
2 Councilmember Elrich,
3 Right.

4
5 Glenn Orlin,
6 They've had some problems the last couple of years, but, typically, they, partly because
7 of standardized design, partly because they usually have the property before they start
8 design and there's always a lot of community support for it, and it's one site, you're not
9 having to acquire a whole string of sites, say for a road, they can move very, very
10 quickly. And they consume a lot of the fiscal space in the CIP, usually early in the CIP.
11 And you're talking about, well, you know, if, it's true that if all the projects were done
12 sooner than later they'd cost less. But since there's only the 300 million a year, or
13 whatever it is that you can do, as long as the \$300 million is being used for something,
14 you've maximized what you can do. And it may be that certain projects keep getting
15 delayed but other ones don't and they get built. And they don't experience the same
16 cost increases because they can use up the 300 million. So it's a really, very, sort of
17 complicated.

18
19 Councilmember Elrich,
20 I mean, I think we need to work on a tighter process than what we've got right now.

21
22 Glenn Orlin,
23 Sure.

24
25 Councilmember Elrich,
26 And I think, you know, it's incumbent on the Executive, I agree with Nancy's comments
27 about knowing what it is we're really going to be doing and, you know, what's in this
28 reserve, what do we really anticipate funding out of the reserve and when do we
29 anticipate funding it? I was a little concerned about your comment about the libraries
30 when you said you used the Executive's estimate, for example, for the Silver Spring
31 Library because I thought one thing that was clear about the Executive's estimate is that
32 it had no basis in reality.

33
34 Glenn Orlin,
35 Right.

36
37 Councilmember Elrich,
38 And this what gets to my other concerns is, the use of zeros or the use of numbers that
39 we've been told are not going to be the number, even if I don't have the precise real
40 number, to continue to use numbers that we know are way low doesn't help this
41 problem.

42
43 Glenn Orlin,
44 I'm going to address the Silver Spring Library.



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Council President Knapp,

The reason that we did it there was not so much that we came up with a lower number to make it fit, it was because there were a number of questions as to what the scope of that project was.

Councilmember Trachtenberg,
Right.

Council President Knapp,

In the course of the presentation that came out last Tuesday, that was dramatically different than what a number of Councilmembers thought the plan was, it was even dramatically different than what other people within the County Executive Branch of government thought the plan was. So rather than try to just make up a number, whether higher or lower, we didn't have enough estimates to pick anything. So we figured we would stay with what the Executive had recommended in the CIP, not because it was higher or lower, just because it was the only thing we could estimate given the uncertainty with what was presented to us last Tuesday. So, and otherwise, we're on track to spend \$60 on the library which didn't make any sense to anybody.

Glenn Orlin,

I would say that's an exception, the Silver Spring Library, it really is.

Council President Knapp,
Yeah.

Councilmember Elrich,

So the rest of the numbers you used are the numbers we asked to use, they're more real estimates of whatever we had said during Committee.

Glenn Orlin,

Well, the Gaithersburg Library, for example, is based on what the Committee did.

Council President Knapp,
Right.

Councilmember Elrich,
Okay.

Glenn Orlin,

And most of the projects we scraped out the construction funds entirely.

Councilmember Elrich,



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1 Okay. On the issue, when you, when they were talking about the Metro Annex, I kind of
2 agree with Roger's concern to some extent. My question is in terms of the other fund
3 you're talking about, have we actually issued the bonds for the other fund?

4
5 Glenn Orlin,
6 The revenue bonds?

7
8 Councilmember Elrich,
9 For the, your, the participation bonds.

10
11 Glenn Orlin,
12 Yeah, my, I have not checked in the last couple of weeks, up until the last couple of
13 weeks we had not.

14
15 Council President Knapp,
16 Jennifer is shaking her head no.

17
18 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
19 Jennifer is saying no.

20
21 Glenn Orlin,
22 Oh, okay.

23
24 Councilmember Elrich,
25 I thought those waited until we actually had a participation project but that you wouldn't
26 actually issue them until you had a participation project, and doesn't this create a level
27 of certainty for this that's a little bit different than, in other words, the participation seems
28 hypothetical until the state says we're doing something, this seems a little less
29 hypothetical.

30
31 Glenn Orlin,
32 Literally what happened was, two years ago when the project was created we made an
33 exception for the first four projects, it was the Glenmont Garage, about \$8.2 million for
34 the Georgia Randolph Interchange, \$2.4 million for the Watkinsville Road Interchange,
35 and \$5 million for the Bethesda Southern Entrance design. That amount of money we
36 said, we're going to put the money up even without match. Anything subsequent, any
37 project that is different than that subsequent to that, we would require a match. That
38 was the basic idea of the PDF. Since then, we've done, used that money to accelerate
39 the Montrose 355 Interchange but that's a little bit different in that that 14 and a half
40 million dollars is actually going to come back to us in about three or four years. You see
41 that fed back into the project in of the form of state aid. There are a couple of other
42 issues, a second -- of money for the Georgia Randolph Interchange, actually, that's the
43 one I'm thinking of, but unfortunately, as of this point, there aren't MOU's completed, or



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1 if they are, it just happened in the last week, I haven't kept up, between the state and
2 the County on all of these projects.

3
4 Glenn Orlin,
5 They were working on them all and they were pretty far advanced in some cases. And
6 so all, every expectation is that the bonds will be issued. Right? [indiscernible]. There
7 you are.

8
9 Council President Knapp,
10 I'm adding up.

11
12 Glenn Orlin,
13 Don't know where anybody is. I don't have a mirror.

14
15 Councilmember Elrich,
16 Okay.

17
18 Glenn Orlin,
19 They will be issued but they just haven't been yet.

20
21 Councilmember Elrich,
22 Okay. Then I guess my remaining concerns are this, one is the Depot, because how do
23 we expand ride on if we don't do something about the ability to expand ride on. I mean,
24 it makes absolutely no sense to talk about expanding our commitment to mass transit,
25 and then sit paralyzed and not be able to add, what, two buses to the ride on system. I
26 mean, which is why I raised the Metro entrance issue, because if I had to choose
27 between the Metro entrance and a bus depot, we would get a lot more benefit from
28 ridership in terms of mass transit if I had to choose between those two by adding a bus
29 depot and expanding the bus fleet than by opening up the entrance at the south. I think
30 that, which is not to say that it doesn't have merit, but the question is what's most likely
31 to happen first and what's most likely to have a contribution to our stated goal, anyway,
32 of increasing mass transit ridership. I think the Metro Depot, I think the Depot issue has
33 to be dealt with in here. I'm interested, I mean, Ms. Trachtenberg has raised the
34 possibility of using the park and ride lots for putting additional buses. And I'm not sure
35 that's not without at least some merit for consideration. But if we're not going to do the
36 Depot, I think we certainly need a plan B that allows us to expand the ride on fleet and
37 do more in transit. I mean, you're going to get a sector plan that calls for a multi-modal
38 corridor. You're not going to run any multi-modal corridor with the fleet we've got right
39 now. So, you know, either, if you're going to do plans and we're going to say we're
40 going to do something, we need to provide the capacity. So I understand this slipped off
41 the spreadsheet and I understand putting it into the spreadsheet makes this headache
42 bigger. I think that's one of the things that I, when Roger says there's stuff we need to
43 come back to, I think we need to come back to that. I share Mike's concern about the
44 delay in the school modernizations. As much as I wish we weren't doing teardowns and



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1 rebuilds. It's, these schools still need to be done and I'm not thrilled that these are, that
2 we've bumped them back a year. And just in general, I want to make sure that we have,
3 that whatever we say we're going to do with this reserve fund we can actually
4 realistically do. But I didn't want is to recreate another situation where we list a bunch of
5 projects, we tell everybody we're going to build a bunch of projects and then we know in
6 reality it's never going to happen but our list of planning is long and it makes it look like
7 we're doing more than we are going to do.

8
9 Glenn Orlin,

10 On the North County Depot, let me just add, I mean, you might recall that I was the one
11 that actually recommended it go in the first place. Because the Executive's
12 recommendation is just for design and for land acquisition. However, you should know
13 that it's not going to affect anything in this upcoming fiscal year '09. The rubber will meet
14 the road in FY10 next year. And so, if you decide you want to add the Depot, you're
15 going to need to do that in as an amendment next year to be able to keep the project on
16 schedule to be able to deliver transit services quick as you can. But you don't need to
17 do it this year. It's just going to be a large challenge for next year. So you do have
18 between now and, you know, next January or so to figure out if that's something you still
19 want to do or not.

20
21 Councilmember Elrich,

22 That was part of the painfulness of this exercise was setting some priorities.

23
24 Glenn Orlin,
25 Right.

26
27 Councilmember Elrich,

28 And saying, if that's a priority for next year, what is a lesser priority?

29
30 Glenn Orlin,
31 Right.

32
33 Council President Knapp,

34 And that was the challenge. Because if we ended up doing that, at least under one
35 proposal, you ended up delaying the high schools two years and that, to me, wasn't a
36 palatable approach and there wasn't a readily apparent other way to get there from
37 here, so I agree with you, those to some degree were the priorities we were working on
38 which is what lays out here.

39
40 Councilmember Elrich,

41 I just, I mean, I just think that somehow or another other we've got to expand our
42 capacity to expand the bus system.

43
44 Council President Knapp,



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1 Agreed. Completely. Alright. – Councilmember Leventhal.

2
3 Councilmember Leventhal,

4 Okay. I want to get a signal from Mr. Berliner and Mr. Elrich for whether these questions
5 about the Bethesda South Metro are purely informational which is very much in order
6 and absolutely appropriate and no problem or whether we are leading up to a motion,
7 because I want to know how much ammunition I need to conserve here. I mean, I'm
8 prepared to engage in a heated debate over the merits of this project if it's necessary. If
9 it isn't necessary and if my colleagues are simply asking probing questions and seeking
10 information, then, you know, that's fine, I'll, you know, it seems to me the questions
11 have been answered and it seems to me they've been answered satisfactorily and we'll
12 just move on. So, are we leading up to a motion on Bethesda South or where are we
13 headed with these questions?

14
15 Council President Knapp,

16 If I might Councilmember Leventhal, at least in conversations I've had, I think that these
17 are fair, just fair and legitimate.

18
19 Councilmember Leventhal,

20 I think the questions are fair and very much in order.

21
22 Council President Knapp,

23 Yeah. Yeah. That's what I understand them to be.

24
25 Councilmember Leventhal,

26 Absolutely.

27
28 Council President Knapp,

29 But I will certainly defer.

30
31 Councilmember Leventhal,

32 Yeah.

33
34 Council President Knapp,

35 To those asking the question as to where they're going.

36
37 Councilmember Leventhal,

38 I don't need to argue the merits of the project.

39
40 Council President Knapp,

41 No.

42
43 Councilmember Leventhal,

44 If we're not engaged in debate.



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1
2 Council President Knapp,
3 I don't.

4
5 Councilmember Leventhal,
6 If we're simply getting questions answered, then that's, as I say, very much in order and
7 appropriate.

8
9 Councilmember Berliner,
10 I will say to my colleague in response, that it was the reason why I asked the question of
11 the Council President to begin with, which was what is the nature of the vote today?
12 And the nature of the vote today as I appreciate it is to establish the overall financial
13 parameters and that if we're comfortable with the overall financial parameters, that we
14 would indicate by saying yes. Are we precluded from moving blocks around within those
15 financial parameters? The Council President has said no. But at the appropriate time, if
16 one seeks to move major blocks around that would require this Council's approval. So I
17 am not precluded, as I appreciate from the Council President, from continuing to look at
18 this issue and if I conclude, and if my colleagues conclude that there may be trade-offs
19 worth exploring, then I will come back to my colleagues and there will be a debate at the
20 appropriate time and you can make that full court press then. But I believe it would be
21 premature at this point in time because there's no motion going to be pending today.

22
23 Councilmember Elrich,
24 And for my part George, I mean, I'm not proposing a motion today either, what I'm
25 concerned about is, I think there's no question about the merit of the entrance in
26 conjunction with the Purple Line. I think, I would raise a question about the priority of
27 that entrance in the absence of a Purple Line. And frankly, we have no assurance from
28 anybody that we're really going to get the funding from the state and the feds to build it.
29 So I wouldn't want this thing to come in prematurely and spend \$50 million and then
30 discover that the Purple Line is not happening and that \$50 million could have gone, for
31 example, to doing a bus depot and expanding the bus system. If on the other hand, this
32 thing is a certainty, then I think that there's a lot of merit, and you don't have to convince
33 me, that there's merit in doing the entrance. To me it's a matter of the timing, that timing
34 should be Purple Line, then Metro and that entrance go with each other.

35
36 Councilmember Leventhal,
37 Well, I'll just go ahead and say now and if I understand Mr. Berliner's response, I may
38 need to say more later, the state is going to be entering into a full-funding agreement
39 with the feds. As part of that dialogue it is important and we were asked, I was asked
40 personally by Secretary – when I met with him, that we identify pieces of the project that
41 could be taken out and funded separately to bring down the overall cost of the project. It
42 is very important to understand that this project, the Purple Line and Corridor Cities
43 Transitway and Baltimore Metro Red Line and Houston and Dallas and Seattle and all
44 of these other projects around the country are all in competition with each other. And



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1 the basis of the competition is cost effectiveness. So the less expensive a project is for
2 the amount of increased ridership it brings, that is the ratio on which the feds will decide,
3 no matter who is president, whether it's Bush or Obama, McCain, or Clinton, or
4 whoever, that formula will remain in place. So what we were asked to do by Secretary --
5 was to find pieces of the project that could be paid for other than through this
6 negotiation between the state of Maryland and the feds to improve the cost
7 effectiveness ratio. And that's the important point to keep in mind. So if we take that off
8 the table now pending the result of the state and federal negotiation, we harm our ability
9 to win that competition that emerges in the state and federal negotiation. Our ability to
10 say, we in Montgomery County see the merit in this as a stand alone project and we will
11 pay for it because we want to increase ridership, we want to increase convenience, we
12 want to make it easier for riders of the Bethesda Metro to access the Bethesda Metro in
13 the Bethesda Row area along Woodmont Boulevard, that we see merit in this
14 separately and we will pay for it separately, will assist us in winning the Purple Line. If
15 we say we can't make that decision until we know whether we've won the Purple Line,
16 then we take away that benefit. This makes, this puts us in stronger negotiating position
17 with the federal government. So I want to make that point. With respect to the
18 maintenance depot, you know, look, I agree it's desirable, I agree we want more ride on
19 bus service, it's just important to bear in mind the County Executive didn't ask for it in
20 the timeframe that the Council said we needed it. So again, we get to this point of, you
21 know, we can put money in the CIP, we can put language in the CIP, but it is ultimately
22 up to the Executive Branch when and whether these things indeed come on line. The
23 County Executive did not state that this was a priority for him in the six year timeframe.
24 So even if we put the money in, we have to sort of take it on faith that he and his staff
25 will arrange their time and their schedule and their priority list to make this happen. The
26 mere fact that we include it in a CIP, we can't snap, we don't get out there with the
27 shovel and the bulldozer and actually build the thing. So, you know, I'm sorry that the
28 Council President has had to delay some important things. We all knew that he would.
29 And with respect to this particular thing, which sounds like a good thing to have and
30 certainly increased ride on capacity is something we would all want, it is not something
31 DPWT brought to us. It's something that the T&E Committee felt in its wisdom we ought
32 to add. And there were other things like that that also have had to been delayed.

33
34 Councilmember Elrich,

35 I guess George, I'd like to think that at the end of this we're two different branches, but
36 we're one government and that we need to have discussions with the Executive about
37 implementation. It seems to me that he brings over a budget and asks for our input and
38 then if our input winds up in something different and that becomes what's enacted, then
39 both of us have to act to carry out that which we've put here and I realize this.

40
41 Council President Knapp,
42 We would certainly hope so.

43
44 Councilmember Elrich,



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1 This may seem, this may seem like a humorous point of view, but I do think that, you
2 know, if that's not happening, we need to talk about it. I mean, this is not a good way,
3 this is not a good way to go on, to just assume that everything everybody does is
4 independent of each other and that we're not actually trying to pull in the same direction.
5 And then, you know, I'd love to have those discussions.

6
7 Council President Knapp,
8 We will. Councilmember Floreen.

9
10 Councilmember Floreen,
11 Well, I have to say Marc, that's why people want to be County Executive. Because
12 those guys work for him. I wanted to make a couple points on the transportation side,
13 with respect to the Bethesda Metro Station South Entrance PDF, Glenn, I don't know if
14 you've done one, I'm looking at one from last month where you did a draft. We, and it's
15 kind of in response to Roger's issue, we had discussed in Committee, and I think we did
16 it at the Council, there was going to be conversation with the Secretary with respect to
17 the treatment of this initiative on behalf of the County. And I think that, in my view, that
18 qualifies as the kind of MOU that we understood to be required for these transportation
19 participation projects. And I would ask that before we finally wrap this up, you look at
20 some language that would reflect that because it's not adding to the cost of the project. I
21 mean, Mr. Leventhal has laid out the issues very well. But how it's treated from our
22 perspective, we did expect a commitment from the state as to its recognition of our
23 contribution to infrastructure needs ordinarily assumed by the state here. And I think
24 appropriate language, I know it needs to be carefully written, but I do believe that we
25 should have that in place. And that was the expectation, Mr. Berliner, with respect to all
26 these participation projects, that there would be an agreement that the Council would be
27 made aware of. There are several conversations, there are a number of conversations I
28 know going on right now as to the use of transportation participation funds in
29 conjunction with the state of Maryland if they have a penny left after whatever the
30 general assembly did yesterday that, to my knowledge, completely removes state
31 funding from, well, has a dramatic impact on Montgomery County support from the state
32 of Maryland, both through the income tax surcharge and what it's doing to the
33 transportation trust fund. We'll wait for the dust to settle of course, but the expectation
34 though was that there would be a written agreement for this and for other projects. And
35 so if you could do that, Glenn, I think that would be helpful. And the other thing, I did
36 want to say this is not something that would be funded, the North County Depot is not
37 something that would be funded from this pot. And I will note that the Transportation
38 Committee has been very careful in terms of looking at, finding ways to pay for itself.
39 Not everything, of course, but that was the point of the state transportation participation
40 project. We found some revenue to carry the cost. And it is not intended to fund
41 everything else.

42
43 Council President Knapp,
44 Right.



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Councilmember Floreen,

Unlike views of the general assembly where the transportation trust fund, as I said, is rated on pretty much a daily basis now to fund state operations. That was, should not be the intent of this program. And I agree with Marc though, that if we don't mean what we say about transit in this budget, it's very clear that we don't, and that's something that we're going to have to continue to work on. But my ultimate question though for Glenn with respect to the Up County Depot is, at what point in time, under the dollars that remain in the CIP for that, would we be in a position to look at the construction at least of the bus depot element of this? We broke that up. They have a whole maintenance initiative up there as well. And we broke up the bus depot part from the maintenance with the hope that we could at least get somewhere on this. It was, I think, \$53 million, something like that. At what point will this, at what year, can you tell me what year the design or the facility planning would put us in a position to move forward?

Glenn Orlin,

Well, it's in design now.

Councilmember Floreen,

So, it's in design.

Glenn Orlin,

And land acquisition is under negotiations, it may even be, is it finished for design? Is the land bought or it's about to be bought.

Councilmember Floreen,

Mr. Gonzalez can help us with that.

Glenn Orlin,

But the first phase of the depot, if it was funded based on what the Council has done up to this reconciliation, would be open by, in fiscal year 2011. So you would have 150.

Councilmember Floreen,

But in terms of.

Glenn Orlin,

Of the 250 spaces for buses will be available.

Councilmember Floreen,

In terms of the design though, are you designing this part that would support the buses?

Edgar Gonzalez,

Right now, we're designing the whole entire piece.



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1 Councilmember Floreen,
2 Whole shebang.

3
4 Edgar Gonzalez,
5 With the idea so that we know what our requirements are going to be ultimately for
6 grading of everything. But the idea has been all along, to, well, since the discussion
7 here, to only build the portion that will support the buses.

8
9 Councilmember Floreen,
10 Well, the question is.

11
12 Edgar Gonzalez,
13 Parking.

14
15 Councilmember Floreen,
16 At what point would we be ready to consider, perhaps, a draw on the reserve, basically,
17 to revisit this issue?

18
19 Edgar Gonzalez,
20 We should be ready towards the beginning of FY10, for design.

21
22 Councilmember Floreen,
23 Beginning of FY10.

24
25 Edgar Gonzalez,
26 We will have completed the design. We're in the process of negotiations with right of
27 way, well, not right of way, with the acquisition of the properties. And you know, we're.

28
29 Councilmember Floreen,
30 Well, I would propose then, that we include that language on the PDF, that we
31 anticipate that this facility would be ready for construction funding in fiscal '10, and we
32 would revisit this at that point. That's a way to get us through now and at least look at
33 that directly.

34
35 Council President Knapp,
36 We would look to the Executive for some guidance.

37
38 Councilmember Floreen,
39 So true.

40
41 Glenn Orlin,
42 I just have to say, as the President would say, you're the decider, not the Executive.
43 What you put in the CIP is what gets built, as long as what you put in the CIP makes
44 sense in terms of what these guys can build.



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1
2 Councilmember Floreen,
3 Right.

4
5 Glenn Orlin,
6 If the charter says, it's you, it's not the Executive. So you do not have to wait for the
7 Executive to make a recommendation, you can do it yourself.

8
9 Councilmember Floreen,
10 Right. Right.

11
12 Council President Knapp,
13 Understood.

14
15 Councilmember Floreen,
16 So, that's a way to, I think, bridge that gap in terms of thinking, planning an objective
17 and then bringing it back to us. So if we could do, if folks are okay with that, that will not
18 affect any of the numbers.

19
20 Council President Knapp,
21 Right.

22
23 Councilmember Floreen,
24 And again, will allow us to assess it.

25
26 Council President Knapp,
27 Sure.

28
29 Councilmember Floreen,
30 In conjunction with all the other things.

31
32 Council President Knapp,
33 Yep.

34
35 Councilmember Floreen,
36 With the hope that maybe we can get something done.

37
38 Council President Knapp,
39 In light of that, and I think that the Council is generally interested in expanding transit
40 service, I would continue to encourage the Department of Public Works and
41 Transportation to proceed with an aggressive outreach campaign within the community
42 to actually articulate what you're doing, how you're doing it, and when you're doing it.
43 Because having one meeting with three people, in my mind, does not convince me that
44 there is a good faith effort on the part of working with the community to get this done



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1 and to address the issues of the Special Protection Area in that section of Clarksburg.
2 And I understand there's been some activity, but nominal.

3
4 Edgar Gonzalez,
5 There has been at least three public meetings. And as far as the imperviousness issue,
6 we are, our preliminary analysis shows that we're about less than one-half of what is the
7 allowable imperviousness. So we are way better than anybody had expected.

8
9 Council President Knapp,
10 And it fits within all the requirement of the Special Protection Area that any other
11 developer in that area would have to abide by?

12
13 Edgar Gonzalez,
14 Absolutely. Absolutely.

15
16 Council President Knapp,
17 I look forward to further conversation on it.

18
19 Edgar Gonzalez,
20 Of course.

21
22 Council President Knapp,
23 Okay.

24
25 Edgar Gonzalez,
26 We have documents to provide to you if you want to see them.

27
28 Council President Knapp,
29 Good. Good. Councilmember Berliner.

30
31 Councilmember Berliner,
32 First, let me commend the Transportation Committee Chair for her suggestion with
33 respect to that. I do think that this Council is going to be more aggressive with respect to
34 improving our mass transportation or our bus system, in particular, than the County
35 Executive thus far appears to be willing to go and we ought to just lay down the marker
36 now that this is important to this Council. And I agree with the observation of Glenn that
37 this is our responsibility.

38
39 Council President Knapp,
40 Right.

41
42 Councilmember Berliner,
43 These are our dollars and this is what we control and we ought to send the message
44 right here and right now that we want to move forward with this depot, consistent with



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1 them fulfilling their obligations to your community that they go about it in the right way,
2 but that we need to expand. We cannot have a situation where we can only buy two
3 more buses when, in fact, we need to greatly expand our bus service. So this has to
4 stop and I am very supportive of the Committee Chair's recommendation with respect to
5 that. I also just wanted to share with my colleagues, each of us are making sacrifices in
6 this CIP. I appreciate that. I did want to observe that with respect to the elementary
7 school gym issue, that all three of them happen to be in my district. The last elementary
8 schools to have gyms, one of them is the only elementary school, I believe, in the
9 County that has a 6th grade as part of it. And I would ask Glenn, if you would separate
10 out the dollars associated with that, because in the course of next month or so, I may
11 seek some conversations with respect to ways in which to address that issue. I don't
12 share the school system's priority with respect to gyms, it's always been something that
13 is a higher priority for me than perhaps others. But I'm not going to let it rest there and
14 just wanted to flag that for my colleagues. Again, I recognize that many people are
15 making big sacrifices with respect to big dollar issues. And I do appreciate that.

16
17 Council President Knapp,

18 I would just, to that point, I appreciate the Councilmember's perspective and I think we
19 have, well, you have what, two high schools? And we share one of them. The other high
20 school which.

21
22 Councilmember Floreen,

23 [indiscernible] people have all of them.

24
25 Council President Knapp,

26 Exactly. Exactly. And so I appreciate the issues as it relate to the gym. And I hope that
27 we can, I think there'll be further of this conversation about what we can do with the
28 school issues. I don't know that there's much that we can, but more heads thinking is
29 never a bad thing. Councilmember Ervin, followed by Councilmember Trachtenberg.

30
31 Councilmember Ervin,

32 Yeah, I've appreciated this morning's conversation about transit and particularly about
33 bus transit. And I've been riding the bus, the ride on and the WMATA Q2 to get up here
34 to Rockville. My normal morning commute by car is 20 minutes, 25 minutes on a bad
35 day. And it took me, it's been, it takes about 90 minutes to take the bus from the corner
36 of Wayne Avenue and Dale Drive, where I live, to change buses onto the Q2 and take
37 the Q2 all the way up Georgia Avenue and Viers Mill. On one particular trip, I spoke to
38 several bus riders who are very disappointed that the Council isn't moving forward to
39 add more buses to the routes. I stood on the corner and saw five buses go by full to the
40 gills, the ride on bus. So I think that in these economic times, people are trying find
41 alternatives to cars and they give up. They go to the bus stop in the morning and they
42 have to forego getting on several buses before they can actually ride. So you know, as
43 public policy elected officials, it's one thing to see this thing in terms of an academic
44 exercise, and all something totally different when you get out there in the morning at



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1 7:30 trying to get to work on time. It's not an easy thing to do. So we have a lot of work
2 to do. And so for those folks who are listening, I'm having a April 21st pre-Earth Day
3 ride the bus with Valerie day because I think it really points out to me, in particular, so
4 many people who are struggling economically ride that bus every single day and they
5 don't get a day off. So I just think it's really a great conversation for us to be having and I
6 look forward to many, many more.

7
8 Council President Knapp,
9 Councilmember Trachtenberg.

10
11 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
12 Just a brief remark and request. And again, I want to start by thanking my colleagues for
13 their comments, in particular the Council President for all the work that went into this
14 initial focus. You know, in terms of building the ride on capacity, again, really tagging
15 onto some of what Councilmember Ervin raised, I very much do see that as something
16 that needs to remain a priority for this body. But when you try to balance that with the
17 need for a depot and what we've got proposed, I had raised several weeks back that I
18 thought we needed to at least look at some other options that we could perhaps initiate
19 in a stage way over the next few years to get serious about a commitment to ride on
20 expansion. And at the time I raised that, I raised the issue of perhaps building some
21 storage capacity at park and ride lots. I would just ask my colleagues, specifically in the
22 Transportation Committee, to perhaps have some conversations with folks from across
23 the street about that very item. I know Marc, Councilmember Elrich raised my point a
24 little while ago, but it would seem to me that we're not going to get to the North County
25 Depot as quickly as we'd like to. And if we're really serious about getting more people in
26 mass transit, then we've got to find, on an interim basis, something else that we can
27 provide that allows us to build, at least over time, the kind of capacity that we really
28 need to be supporting. And I'm just asking my colleagues to be talking about it in the
29 Transportation Committee. I'll do my best to get there. But this is something that I feel
30 strongly about. Occasionally I do take mass transit. I don't live that far away. It takes me
31 about 12 minutes by car and it takes me about 35 minutes by Metro if I walk both ways,
32 which is fine. And it's good exercise. But I think the more we can do to make it
33 convenient, that's the way we make a difference with traffic. And it's the way that we
34 preserve the earth that we all share.

35
36 Council President Knapp,
37 Chair of the T&E Committee.

38
39 Councilmember Floreen,
40 Thank you. Well, I'm glad you raised that, Ms. Trachtenberg. We have a schedule, I'm
41 not sure if we have a date yet, but I have asked DPWT to do a presentation on its transit
42 program generally in terms of their transit plan such as it is and so we can ask those
43 questions and talk about that. What they have is a rather outdated program, I think, that
44 they're looking to polish up before they come back to us. I know Councilmember Elrich



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1 has some thoughts about a rapid bus transit program for us to test the Planning Board
2 with. And we'll talk about that this afternoon. I think these are all valid issues that need
3 to be worked together and sorted out. So I think that's certainly on the list in terms of
4 revisiting our overall transit initiatives and appreciating what the challenges are. You will
5 hear from our Committee members the pedestrian access issues, the bus stop shelter
6 issues, and we have made some strides over time in terms of negotiating improvements
7 to those. Again, it's a question of dollars and a certain amount of will to make sure those
8 things happen. But there are many pieces to that package and a very important one. So
9 thanks for raising that and we will, I think we will be talking about that in next couple
10 weeks, I believe. We'll see.

11
12 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
13 Sounds good.

14
15 Council President Knapp,
16 And Council Vice-President Andrews with the last words.

17
18 Councilmember Andrews,
19 Thank you. Well, first, thank you Council President Knapp for a major effort to put
20 together a reconciliation list in a difficult year and balancing many, many programs,
21 many, many projects that we would all like to see done faster. So I think you've put
22 together an excellent initial project list. I have concerns, as do others, about some of the
23 specifics, as I know you do. But you've done what you think is needed to make it fit in a
24 logical way over the six years. And that's necessary to do. So that leadership is
25 important. I would like to look at the possibility of some adjustments on the high school
26 modernizations to see if there's any ability to look at half-year versus full-year delays.
27 They are very expensive. But because high school modernizations are done on site,
28 they can open in the middle of the year if available. There's nothing that would stop that
29 from happening. There's some flexibility there in that respect, if not perhaps in the
30 funding, but I think we should explore that. Third, I want to emphasize how the major
31 obstacle right now to expanding bus usage in the County, and I think Councilmember
32 Ervin, Councilmember Trachtenberg, Councilmember Floreen, Councilmember Elrich,
33 everybody here agrees that the fastest way to improve transit is to get more buses on
34 the road on routes that we know are heavily used. And we have done a great deal in the
35 last eight years to encourage ride on use. We have kept the two-week pass at \$10 since
36 2000. It was lowered, it was \$18 at the time, we lowered it to \$10, it's still that, to really
37 give people an incentive to use it a lot, use it intensively. We've added bus shelters,
38 we've added some routes. But the major obstacle at this point is the lack of storage
39 space to service more buses. And so that is the major obstacle, at this point, to
40 increasing bus use. There's clearly demand out there for it. We need to find a way to
41 address that if we're going to continue to see progress in that direction. So we've cut the
42 price of riding ride on very low, in some cases we've made it free for seniors and people
43 with disabilities and after school for children. So I think what we're hearing is a lot of
44 interest in finding a way to get more buses on the road as soon as feasible and



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1 Councilmember Trachtenberg has suggested looking at the park and ride lots since
2 some of them are not full, as perhaps a temporary alternative. I think we need to look at
3 the pros and cons of that. But I think we need to be aggressive in figuring out how we
4 can get more storage space for buses so we can address that. But I thank all my
5 colleagues for their comments. I think we've made some progress. And thank you,
6 Council President Knapp for taking the lead.

7
8 Council President Knapp,
9 Thank you. I thank my colleagues for their input and for their deliberation over the last
10 few weeks. I know that many didn't think we would, weren't sure we could resolve the
11 resource issue in front of us and I think we've done a pretty effective job and I thank Dr.
12 Orlin and I thank them for their efforts.

13
14 Glenn Orlin,
15 I think we need a motion.

16
17 Council President Knapp,
18 I don't know if we do at this point.

19
20 Glenn Orlin,
21 Well, the.

22
23 Council President Knapp,
24 Because we're still some.

25
26 Glenn Orlin,
27 I mean, what happens in.

28
29 Council President Knapp,
30 I think, well, I think what you've got is a sense of the Council as to this is the right
31 framework. I think there are a couple pieces that people want to look at from some of
32 the language, we need to look at the community center piece to see, 17 to 26, so we've
33 got a couple things that are left still out there I think to look at. But that this is the right
34 framework in which to operate. We want to look at the high school piece a little bit more
35 and see if there's some things we can do there. But I think that through your effort,
36 Glenn, through Linda's efforts, that we, and the rest of our staff and others, we've made
37 great progress to get what was a \$363 million overage to a parameter that gets us with
38 reserve capacity each year and roughly \$350 million in reserve for us to fund projects as
39 they come available. I think very clearly the Council is concerned that we actually move
40 these projects forward and get them addressed. And what is the best way to manage
41 that and implement that process, and I think there is a commitment on the part of this
42 Council to make sure that works and happens, as well as to continue to focus on transit
43 as a key element of what needs to get addressed next in our County. So with that, if
44 there are further questions, I mean, I'm sure there will be as we proceed through our



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1 operating budget, because clearly, these aren't separate and distinct from each other
2 necessarily, we will have some other issues that present themselves. But I thank
3 everybody for the discussion this morning, I think it was actually a very good discussion
4 and helped clarify a number of issues, and for your efforts over the preceding weeks
5 that set up this discussion and the CIP that we have before us. So thank you all very
6 much. We are in recess until, I believe, until 1:30, where we have two public hearings
7 and then we meet with the Planning Board for our semiannual report.
8

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1

**TRANSCRIPT
April 8, 2008**

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

PRESENT

Councilmember Michael Knapp, President
Councilmember Roger Berliner
Councilmember Valerie Ervin
Councilmember George Leventhal

Councilmember Phil Andrews, Vice President
Councilmember Marc Elrich
Councilmember Nancy Floreen
Councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg



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1 President Knapp,
2 Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. This is a Public Hearing on Expedited Bill 4-08,
3 Reorganization Executive Branch, which would replace the Department of Public Works
4 and Transportation with the Department of Transportation and transfer certain of
5 DPWT's functions to it; move DPWT solid waste functions to the Department of
6 Environmental Protection; create an office of Internal Audit; and move certain of
7 Finance Department Internal Audit functions to it; create a Department of General
8 Services incorporating the Office of Procurement and certain of DPWT's functions;
9 abolish the Department of Homeland Security and reassign functions to the Department
10 of Police, and most functions to a new office of Emergency Management and Homeland
11 Security; and generally amend the law regarding transportation, public works,
12 procurement, property management, emergency management and security, internal
13 audit and related functions. This is also a Public Hearing on Zoning Text Amendment
14 08-03, Executive Branch Reorganization, Department of Transportation, which would
15 transfer certain functions of the Department of Transportation, update obsolete
16 provisions, make stylistic and conforming changes, and generally amend the Zoning
17 Ordinance regarding the abolition of the Department of Public Works and
18 Transportation, and creation of the Department of Transportation; and also Subdivision
19 Regulation Amendment 08-01, Executive Branch Reorganization, Department of
20 Transportation, which would transfer certain functions to the Department of
21 Transportation, and generally amend the Subdivision Regulations regarding the
22 abolition of the Department of Public Works and Transportation, and the creation of the
23 Department of Transportation. A Public Safety Committee work session is tentatively
24 scheduled for April 10, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. A Management and Fiscal Policy Committee
25 work session is tentatively scheduled for April 10, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. A Transportation
26 and Environment Committee work session is tentatively scheduled for April 14, 2008, at
27 9:30 a.m. The record will close following the hearing. Before beginning your
28 presentation please state your name clearly for the record. We have one speaker, the
29 Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Firestine.

30
31 Tim Firestine,
32 Thank you. And I am Time Firestine, Chief Administrator Officer. And I'd like to
33 acknowledge also -- that's it.

34
35 President Knapp,
36 That was my three minutes for reading the introduction.

37
38 Councilmember Leventhal,
39 And there's what we needed.

40
41 Tim Firestine,
42 I also want to recognize the fact that we have with us today major players in putting
43 together this reorganization proposal the department had to participate in. And also the
44 department had to work under the leadership Assistant CAO Fariba Kassiri and Gordon



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1 Awiagi, who led these efforts for the County Executive. I also want to thank the Council
2 President for sponsoring this Bill, the Zoning Text Amendment and the SRA on behalf of
3 the County Executive. While the County has a long and proud tradition of being an
4 efficient, responsive and responsible local government, the cycle of our democratic
5 institutions allows for fresh perspectives and opportunities to change government from
6 time to time to reflect the vision of elected officials and to improve programs and
7 delivery of services. The Executive has responsibility for organizing and directing
8 departments, officers and other functions of the county government. The County
9 Executive's proposed changes to county government in Bill 4-08 that will improve
10 accountability, provide a sharper focus on customer service both internal and external,
11 enhance environmental protection efforts, align the transportation mission to move
12 people, and enhance the coordination of emergency management Homeland Security
13 policies and activities. The Bill also clarifies the rules governing delegation of authority
14 and enhances accountability by moving the internal audit function to my office.
15 Highlights to the proposed reorganization is reflected in Bill 4-08 include creating a new
16 Department of Transportation whose focus will be to move people with a network of
17 transit, roads, bikeways and pedestrian facilities. The components of this department
18 include transportation capital projects design and construction, traffic engineering and
19 operations, parking management, transit services, and highway maintenance. This
20 department will focus on achieving the Executive's goal of an efficient and effective
21 transportation network. Second, creating a new Department of General Services, whose
22 focus will be to provide effective and timely internal support as well as to enhance and
23 add value to the mission of other County departments and offices? The components of
24 this department will include program compliance, office of procurement, real estate
25 office, facility capital design and construction, facilities and services, fleet management
26 services, and small business reserve programming. This department will focus on
27 providing goods, services, equipment, supplies, facilities and rolling stock in a timely
28 and responsive manner to support the mission of other departments and offices, and to
29 achieve the Executive's goal of a responsive and accountable county government.
30 Third, transferring the Division of Solid Waste Services to the Department of
31 Environmental Protection. This change will help achieve the Executive's goal of
32 providing healthy and sustainable communities by enhancing the County's ability to
33 develop and promote a coordinated strategy for implementing recycling, resource
34 recovery and renewable energy, messages and programs. Fourth, establishing an
35 Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security as a smaller, policy-oriented,
36 and coordinating function to ensure that departments, offices and agencies of county
37 government coalesce and integrate their readiness, response and recovery capabilities
38 into a unified and comprehensive effort. This office will report directly to my office similar
39 to other peer governments and states in which Emergency Management Homeland
40 Security functions emanate from the office of the chief elected official. The
41 establishment of this office results in the abolishment of the Department of Homeland
42 Security and the transfer of the Division of Security Services to the police department.
43 And finally, transferring the functions of internal audit from the Finance Department to
44 my office. This change reflects best practices in both the private and public sectors to



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1 ensure that proactive measures for internal controls are supported and implemented at
2 the highest levels of the organization. In addition to the major changes listed above, Bill
3 4-08 clarifies the law governing delegation of authority, particularly regarding the sub-
4 delegation of authority. The County Executive acknowledges that the proposed
5 reorganization is only the first phase of organizational change. The Executive's goal
6 was to focus on mission alignment, customer service and accountability, and to reflect
7 peer practices that have proven effective. We acknowledge that what must follow are
8 considerations involving changes to business processes, resource allocations,
9 efficiency and effectiveness in performance, and achieving of appropriate outcomes.
10 We have initiated these efforts through departmental performance planning, county stat,
11 311 customer relationship management, and the F09 recommended Operating Budget.
12 We look forward to the active engagement of the Council in these future efforts. The
13 Executive's recommended FY09 Operating Budget reflects the proposed
14 reorganization. We urge your support of the Executive's efforts to organize and direct
15 county government by approving this reorganization plan. Thank you.

16
17 President Knapp,

18 Thank you very much. And I applaud your efforts to come forward with a proposal to
19 reorganize. I think it is important to reflect where things are going differently, when they
20 are in fact going to different places. And so I appreciate your efforts to do so. The
21 Council is hoping to address this all in a fairly expedited fashion to then correlate to
22 what we're addressing in the budget. So we will do work sessions this week and early
23 next week with the expectation that hopefully next week at this time we're actually back
24 with all the pieces of legislation before a full Council, I believe. I think it's next week. If
25 it's not next week, it's the week after, but in a very short timeframe. So I appreciate your
26 efforts and look forward to working with you and the team over the course of the next
27 couple weeks to resolve this. We have one questions; Councilmember Leventhal.

28
29 Councilmember Leventhal,

30 Mr. Firestine, I support the thrust of -- I support all the recommendations in here. And I
31 think they made good policy sense. I want to commend Gordon Awaigi for his many
32 years of service to Montgomery County, and the last few years in helping us navigate
33 the complex requirements of the variety of federal grants and federal requirements in
34 Homeland Security. But I think creating a Department of Homeland Security was a
35 mistake. And it's appropriate to have this office that will coordinate with other
36 departments. I think that's the right move. And generally I think all of these moves are
37 right. Moving solid waste to Environmental Protection makes a great deal of sense.
38 Consolidating building construction and procurement and the small business reserve; all
39 of those moves I support. The only real question I have has to do with these employees
40 who provide security in our buildings, and the mechanics of what will happen with them.
41 There are a variety of interesting questions. It's not a problem. I mean, I agree with the
42 direction that we're going. But, first of all, there are some small questions which could
43 be addressed. This will all come before MFP and I'm not a member of MFP. These --
44 will it not?



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1
2 Vice President Andrews,
3 That part is public safety.

4
5 Councilmember Leventhal,
6 Oh, that part will come -- okay.

7
8 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
9 That part is Public Safety.

10
11 Councilmember Leventhal,
12 Okay, very well. I'm not a member of that either.

13
14 President Knapp,
15 You can still ask the question then.

16
17 Councilmember Leventhal,
18 Yeah. So how will the responsibilities of these folks differ from the responsibilities of
19 police officers? I understand they will be, I mean, the police department will now have to
20 absorb a whole lot of -- a lot of different job classifications. And my question is, are we
21 going to have long-term increases in costs? I mean, we want a professional security
22 force. We don't necessarily need uniformed police officers fulfilling those functions. And
23 will it -- will there -- are we adding long-term pressure to kind of upgrade these people
24 and turn them into police officers? And as much as I respect the work that they do, I'm
25 just -- we all -- I know you are, Tim, thinking about long-term cost implications. And the
26 question all along about these people, I mean, originally they were in DPWT. And then a
27 department was created and Gordon became the head of it. And I said at the time, if
28 you're going to build an empire, you have to have an army. And so these people were
29 moved over into Gordon's new department; I thought that was questionable at the time.
30 I don't think we should have a Homeland Security department now. It does make some
31 sense. There is some congruence with the mission of the police department, but they
32 are not police officers. And I think we'd want to be very cautious about turning them into
33 police officers. So, I'm just interested in that. And, frankly, I'm actually interested in what
34 are the implications from the standpoint of the collective bargaining process. These
35 employees are represented by different employee organizations than police department
36 employees; and how will that play out? So what are the costs? What are the
37 implications? What are the job requirements? How do they differ from police officers?
38 And what are the implications for collective bargaining?

39
40 Tim Firestine,
41 And those are good questions. And I don't know if you're preference is to go into that
42 now.

43
44 Councilmember Leventhal,



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1 It may not be necessary to.

2
3 Tim Firestine,

4 Or bring it [inaudible] or we can provide those answers.

5
6 President Knapp,

7 I think the best way would be to get those as forms of questions and answers back to
8 the Public Safety Committee.

9
10 Councilmember Leventhal,

11 That would be satisfactory to me.

12
13 President Knapp,

14 That's Thursday, I believe, that's when the Public Safety Committee [inaudible].

15
16 Tim Firestine,

17 We'll be prepared to respond to those.

18
19 Councilmember Leventhal,

20 Okay, that's satisfactory to me.

21
22 President Knapp,

23 Okay.

24
25 Councilmember Leventhal,

26 Thanks.

27
28 President Knapp,

29 Councilmember Berliner.

30
31 Councilmember Berliner,

32 Just a brief observation. I too commend you for the general thrust of this. I know my
33 office, like everybody else, gets more questions with respect to the Department of
34 Public Works and Transportation than any other agency. And I believe its mission has --
35 is in fact too large. And I think this division to create a Department of General Services
36 is a positive step forward as one that other large counties have had for many years. And
37 I think it is the right step. I would just highlight for you one issue that has been flagged.
38 When I read it, it is the separation from the Department of Transportation, the "fleet
39 management services function." This is something that I am sure that the Chair and
40 myself, and other members of the transportation -- I can't even remember the name that
41 you've created for this thing. What -- Transportation Infrastructure, Energy and the
42 Environment.

43
44 President Knapp,



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1 There you go.

2
3 Councilmember Berliner,

4 We look forward to understanding that division and how that will work, and whether or
5 not it is the best way to go. So I just want to flag that one issue for your attention.

6
7 Tim Firestine,
8 [Inaudible].

9
10 President Knapp,

11 Great, there are no more questions. Thank you very much. We look forward to working
12 with you all over the course of the next week or so. Our next agenda item, Agenda Item
13 #12, is a Public Hearing on Expedited Bill 5-08, Taxes, Personal Property Tax, Electric
14 Generating Equipment, which would increase the percent of assessment for personal
15 property tax purposes of certain machinery or equipment used to generate electricity,
16 steam, or hot or chilled water for a certain period of time; and generally amend County
17 Law regarding personal property taxes. Action is tentatively scheduled for April 15th,
18 2008. Persons wishing to submit additional comments should do so by the close of
19 business on Wednesday, April 9th, 2008, so that the individual views can be included in
20 material which staff will prepare for Council consideration. Before beginning your
21 presentation, please state your name clearly for the record. Robert Hagedoorn,
22 representing the County Executive.

23
24 Robert Hagedoorn,

25 Yes, good afternoon. I'm name is Robert Hagedoorn, Chief Division of Treasury,
26 Department of Finance. And I'm hereby submitting testimony on behalf of County
27 Executive Isiah Leggett to express his support for Expedited Bill 5-08. This legislation
28 amends the County Code to provide for a temporary increase in assessment for
29 personal property used to generate electricity and other energy sources. The revenues
30 generated from this legislation will partly offset the reduction in revenues due to the
31 elimination of the State's electric deregulation grant starting next fiscal year, FY09. The
32 estimated revenues from this expedited legislation are included in the recommended
33 budget for FY09. As part of the electric deregulation process in Maryland several years
34 ago the assessment of personal property used to generate electricity was reduced 100
35 to 50% in order to hold counties harmless from any revenue loss affected local
36 jurisdictions received an electric grant. This grant was \$2.8 million in the current fiscal
37 year for Montgomery County. In order to recapture some of the loss in revenues, local
38 jurisdictions can temporarily increase the assessment in FY09, FY10 and FY11. The
39 estimated [inaudible] is \$1.7 million over those three years with about half of that in the
40 next fiscal year. I'll be happy to answer any questions, and I thank you for this
41 opportunity.

42
43 President Knapp,

44 Okay. Thank you very much. Councilmember Berliner.



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1
2 Councilmember Berliner,
3 I always love descriptions like this. Are we talking about the Morant Plant?

4
5 Robert Hagedoorn,
6 Yes.

7
8 Councilmember Berliner,
9 Are we talking about any other plant?

10
11 Robert Hagedoorn,
12 No.

13
14 Councilmember Berliner,
15 Okay. So this essentially recovers from Morant the dollars that we otherwise lost from
16 the state? How much of it do we recover?

17
18 Robert Hagedoorn,
19 The next -- in FY09 it's about \$830,000 estimate.

20
21 Councilmember Berliner,
22 Out of -- what is it that we lost by virtue?

23
24 Robert Hagedoorn,
25 Well we lost a total of 2.8 million.

26
27 Councilmember Berliner,
28 And we're unable to capture the entire difference; is that correct?

29
30 Robert Hagedoorn,
31 That is correct.

32
33 Councilmember Berliner,
34 And I -- .

35
36 Robert Hagedoorn,
37 Because what it allows us to do when it went from 100 down to 50, it allows us to go up
38 to 65 in the first year, 60 in the second year, and then 55 in the third year; and then
39 we're back to the old 50%. So only for those three years at a sliding scale can we
40 capture some of it?

41
42 Councilmember Berliner,
43 And we are recapturing as much as we can recapture; is that correct?



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1 Robert Hagedoorn,
2 Well, we -- yes, that is correct.

3
4 Councilmember Berliner,
5 Under proposal.

6
7 Robert Hagedoorn,
8 That is correct.

9
10 Councilmember Berliner,
11 We are not leaving anything on the table with respect to -- ?

12
13 Robert Hagedoorn,
14 No, we're not.

15
16 Councilmember Berliner,
17 Thank you.

18
19 President Knapp,
20 Councilmember Leventhal.

21
22 Councilmember Leventhal,
23 Following on my colleague, Mr. Berliner's questions; would this text not apply to our
24 trash-to-energy plant?

25
26 Robert Hagedoorn,
27 It only applies to that particular plant according to the State Department of Assessment
28 Taxation. That is correct. That's only one that is applicable in this case.

29
30 Councilmember Leventhal,
31 But the plain language of the law would suggest if I put up a solar panel on my roof that
32 I would have to pay tax on it because it would be used to generate electricity.

33
34 Robert Hagedoorn,
35 I was informed by SEAT, when I asked that question, which particular accounts would
36 be affected by this change; and that's what they indicated.

37
38 Councilmember Leventhal,
39 Okay. I -- .

40
41 Robert Hagedoorn,
42 In this particular account was the one that was affected by -- .

43
44 Unidentified,



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1 [Inaudible].

2
3 President Knapp,
4 I agree.

5
6 Councilmember Leventhal,
7 [Inaudible].

8
9 Councilmember Berliner,
10 To make sure that is has no other affect than Morant, which was my understanding.

11
12 Councilmember Leventhal,
13 Yeah, I mean, I think my thinking is running along the same lines as Mr. Berliner. We
14 don't have a lot of capacity to alter -- the generate electricity other than at the Morant
15 plant, but we have some and we're setting up methane to energy plants now at our
16 landfills. And we're trying to encourage individuals to the extent that they have the
17 capacity to invest in solar panels on their own. And some day we may want to build a
18 solar array in the County. And so I'd think we want -- if the -- I, I, -- I don't read the Bill to
19 do precisely what your answer was to Mr. Berliner.

20
21 Robert Hagedoorn,
22 I will get the [inaudible] answer from SDAT.

23
24 Councilmember Leventhal,
25 And I think if the intent is to as you said in response to Mr. Berliner to recapture the tax
26 that otherwise would have been -- recapture the revenue that otherwise would have
27 been collected from the one big coal-fired power plant in the County, then would you or
28 would the County Executive object to clarifying language that we don't seek to increase
29 personal property taxes, you know, as -- when we had a public hearing witness recently
30 who installed a solar panel on his roof, it is not our intent to increase personal property
31 taxes on other -- other facilities that generate electricity.

32
33 Robert Hagedoorn,
34 I will get the answer. But my understanding is the only one that would be affected by it is
35 the one who had gained benefit at the time from the reduction in the assessment from
36 100 down to 50.

37
38 Councilmember Leventhal,
39 Okay, well, let's have Mr. Drummer help us out. You understand the concern that Mr.
40 Berliner and I are raising.

41
42 President Knapp,
43 And to be clear, when I look at this what we are doing is increasing it higher for 2008
44 and a little bit lower 2009, 2010, effectively at sunset it goes back to 50%.



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1
2 Robert Hagedoorn,
3 That's right.

4
5 President Knapp,
6 By 2012 -- or 2011. So it has effectively a sunset without having -- .

7
8 Robert Hagedoorn,
9 That is correct.

10
11 President Knapp,
12 Articulate sunset. Okay. Does this -- this doesn't go to committee; this just comes back
13 to full Council for consideration; Mr. Drummer?

14
15 Robert Drummer,
16 [Inaudible].

17
18 President Knapp,
19 That's what it looked like. That's what we articulated here.

20
21 Councilmember Leventhal,
22 And we spend 15 minutes on it in the TIEE Committee.

23
24 President Knapp,
25 That's why I was going to see if we could -- .

26
27 Councilmember Leventhal,
28 My questions are the same as Roger's; and I'm not satisfied that -- .

29
30 President Knapp,
31 All right. Let's -- when we get done here, I'll get with Glenn and with the committee
32 chairs to see what's the best place to go.

33
34 Councilmember Leventhal,
35 [Inaudible].

36
37 President Knapp,
38 But right the action is scheduled for the 15th.

39
40 Councilmember Leventhal,
41 But if Mr. Drummer is confident that there's no problem, I'd like an explanation of why
42 there isn't -- .

43
44 President Knapp,



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1 Okay.

2
3 Councilmember Leventhal,
4 A clear -- a simple reading of the Bill suggests that there is.

5
6 President Knapp,
7 Okay.

8
9 Robert Drummer,
10 I think we need to look at that.

11
12 President Knapp,
13 All right. Well, let's get -- we'll get -- I'll get the committee chairs afterwards with Ms.
14 Lauer and see what we we've got available to schedule, and if we can move that
15 forward next Tuesday, so much the better. Do we need to do it? Is there something that
16 has to happen that we do it by next Tuesday?

17
18 Robert Hagedoorn,
19 The only requirement is that the State needs to know by May 1st and has to have a
20 copy of the legislation.

21
22 President Knapp,
23 So we've got a little bit of flexibility then. Okay. All right. Good questions and we will
24 schedule that as appropriate. There are no more questions; thank you very much. This
25 concludes the public hearing. We now turn to action on Special Appropriation to the
26 MNCP PPC FY08 Operating Budget. Sources for this are the Administration Fund, Park
27 Fund and General Fund. As I believe my colleagues will recall, during our discussion of
28 the Council's or the County Budget Reduction Plan or Budget Savings Plan that we
29 undertook in January and February, we articulated to Park and Planning at that time
30 that it was difficult for us to look at all of the things that they were proposing in the
31 context -- without the context of further discussion. And so the Planning Board Chair
32 sent back a Special Appropriation request to the Council that looked at further clarifying
33 what their reductions have been, what their supplemental or special appropriation
34 request would be otherwise, and the Council then or the PHED Committee then
35 undertook analysis of this last week -- a week and a half ago. In the course of
36 discussion, the Council or the PHED Committee refined further what had been
37 proposed by Park and Planning, and so of the numbers you see before you of what was
38 requested, the Planning Department had requested 1.2 million development review
39 special fund, 749,000 Department of Park, 403,000 we refined those numbers further
40 downward so that the committee recommends funding a total of 1.19 million of the
41 agency's 2.3 million Special Appropriation request. The committee recommended
42 funding 201,500 for the Department of Parks' request; 748,000 for the Development
43 Review Special Revenue Fund using the Administration Fund Reserve 250,000 of the
44 Planning Department's request; and the committee deferred funding additional work on



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1 the Growth Policy, but will review this request within the FY09 Operating Budget. I can
2 walk through each of the individual pieces if Councilmembers would like. There was
3 some discussion within the committee. Councilmember Floreen was the dissenting vote
4 on a number of these. In the Department of Parks, we recommended one-half of what
5 was requested. And the issue that the committee had discussed was trying not to set up
6 a situation that was only going to further exacerbate the funding issues that we were
7 going to address in the budget discussion in the course of the next month. And so we
8 tried to give some flexibility and discretion to Parks as to what they would fund
9 encouraging them not necessarily to fund many additional positions, but to fund those
10 things that they recognized they needed knowing that they had to address some lapse
11 issues and some additional maintenance and facilities issues. And so we wanted to give
12 them the discretion to do that, but not necessarily to fund a number of additional
13 positions. And the Development Review Special Fund, the committee unanimously
14 supported funding the request of \$748,300 using the MSC PCC administrative fund
15 reserve as the funding source. We understood that there were resources there in which
16 to do this. And then in the Planning Department, the committee deferred considering the
17 request for 539,000 for additional work on the Growth Policy, which there are a number
18 of elements of the Growth Policy that are coming to the Council this fall, or late this
19 summer. This request did not hinder those elements coming forward, and the committee
20 felt that it made sense -- or at least a majority of the committee felt that it made sense to
21 have a discussion in the course of our full budget discussion next month as to what the
22 impact of the remaining elements might be, so we would understand it in a better
23 context. The majority of the committee recommended 2-1 for funding \$250,000 of the
24 \$691,000 remaining request for the Planning Department. Councilmember Floreen did
25 not support funding this request at this time due to potential impacts on the FY09
26 budget. The committee also recommended deferring considering of this -- of which
27 portion of the request. Okay, that's the Growth Policy work. And then the committee
28 believed it was appropriate given the current fiscal situation to ask Park and Planning to
29 freeze vacant positions except the most critical, and reconsider the need for all term
30 positions and consulting contracts to provide the flexibility for the department to meet
31 the most critical needs. The committee recommended the funding as I outlined. We
32 wanted to give them flexibility and not try to micromanage even further. And so that's
33 what we have before us; a scaled-down request of the Special Appropriation that had
34 come over from the Planning Board. And we appreciate your efforts. Ms Michelson, is
35 there anything that I missed? Okay. Mr. Chairman.

36
37 Royce Hanson,
38 We are reconciled to the committee's judgment.

39
40 Councilmember Floreen,
41 Best to quit while you're ahead.

42
43 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
44 I think it's quit while you're ahead.



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1
2 President Knapp,

3 They are going to get a lot of I'm happy's in the next couple of months. I turn to my
4 committee members; Councilmember Floreen.

5
6 Councilmember Floreen,

7 Well, yes. Thank you very much. I'm very sympathetic to Park and Planning here. But I
8 have to say I think this is threshold issue for us. We've got -- we're looking at here
9 adding to base in a budget that in a couple weeks we may be forced to look at cutting.
10 We, in the committee, deferred one section of this for that reason. But what's -- and we
11 also found funding for the special revenue fund within lapse. But there's still about half a
12 million dollars that's proposed to be added to their budget here. And I am -- I don't know
13 about you all, but I'm looking at a property tax increase depending upon where you
14 stand; certainly in the commercial sector 20 to 24%. What that means for jobs, what that
15 means for housing what that means for all our other priorities is an issue that we're
16 going to get into in the course of this budget. But I just do not believe that this is the time
17 to add anything to anyone's operating budget. I think these certainly are valid requests,
18 and we certainly demand a lot of Park and Planning. But I think we need to look at all
19 these things in the course of budget review that results in some relatively consistent
20 results. We're looking at \$137 million, I believe is the number of the day, over the
21 charter limit -- the next year's budget; 137 million. I don't know if you all have come up --
22 pardon me?

23
24 President Knapp,

25 As proposed by the Executive.

26
27 Councilmember Floreen,

28 As proposed by the Executive. Can we cut \$137 million from the County Executive's
29 budget? Well, it's going to be an interesting spring. But I don't know why we -- as we're
30 fond of saying around here, when you're in a hole stop digging. And I think this keeps
31 the hole getting deeper at this point. So I urge my colleagues to not support what would
32 come to the committee's recommendation, which indeed was scaled back to I think it's
33 about -- according to my math, it's \$451,500. Marlene, is my math right? I would move
34 that we not increase their budget by that amount. That's a cut to Parks and it is a cut to
35 Planning, but -- and I'm sorry, but we're going to have this conversation with every other
36 -- I think at least we should have this conversation with every other budget that we're
37 looking at. And since we're going to take them up in a couple weeks, I think there's no
38 reason to act now, because we're just increasing the base upon which that
39 conversation. I think it's -- when is that, Marlene.

40
41 Marlene,

42 You're doing Parks next Monday.

43
44 Councilmember Floreen,



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1 Next Monday.

2
3 Marlene,
4 And Planning the week after that.

5
6 Councilmember Floreen,
7 So why prejudice the issue. It's surely true that they do wonderful things, we need them,
8 and we're going to in a minutes launch into a really lengthy conversation, I think, about
9 their work program. But I'm not prepared to support an increase in their budget at this
10 point. So I make the motion to recommend to -- really recommend that we not fund the
11 451,500, but that's left on the -- .

12
13 Marlene,
14 Right, but to retain the 748 for the development.

15
16 Councilmember Floreen,
17 That's correct.

18
19 Marlene,
20 Review Special Revenue Fund.

21
22 Councilmember Floreen,
23 That's correct.

24
25 President Knapp,
26 There's a motion before us.

27
28 Councilmember Leventhal,
29 Second.

30
31 President Knapp,
32 There's a second. So we have the motion -- so discussion on Councilmember Floreen's
33 reduction of \$451,500 from the committee recommendation. Councilmember Leventhal.

34
35 Councilmember Leventhal,
36 I would like to understand about the \$748,300; are we not supposed to fund
37 Development Review on its own through application fees? Is it not supposed to be a
38 self-supporting exercise?

39
40 Royce Hanson,
41 When the Council set up the Special Revenue Fund it was proposed to be self-
42 supporting and it was self-supporting for the first year that it was in existence, because it
43 was at the peak of the building cycle. You may recall that last year when we came to
44 you for the budget for the fiscal 08 budget, we said that we thought that proposing that



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1 this be a self-supporting fund with no seed funding, and there was no seed funding for
2 this as there had been for other special revenue funds set up for other agencies in the
3 past. That in the downturns of the cycle that it was highly unlikely that the recovery of
4 fees would be sufficient to cover the costs that were involved. We also raised the point,
5 which is a valid one, that there are aspects of the development review process which
6 are public interest aspects of it that are at least questionable as to whether they should
7 be covered fully by application fees. The consequence of the timing of this situation was
8 that we did have a surplus in the first year. And we have used that surplus to plug part
9 of the hole that occurred once the cycle turned down. Right now we are only 7% below
10 in numbers of applications, but we are about 50% below in the revenue from those
11 applications, because the applications coming in are, for the most part, for smaller
12 projects and therefore do not produce the same amount. It is critical that there would be
13 basically a level or even level of funding for the Development Review Program. Not only
14 is there a backlog that has to be taken care over time, but that it is, you know, at
15 worst pennywise and pound foolish to have a situation in which it's necessary to rife
16 members of the staff that deal with development review during lean years and then
17 spend six months once the cycle turns around to try to hire new people. If we develop
18 this kind of a reputation we'd be lucky if we're able to hire new people in six months,
19 because basically what you're asking them to do is to take on temporary employment.
20

21 Councilmember Leventhal,

22 Well the motion that Ms. Floreen made and that I seconded retains the 748,000, so
23 there isn't anything before the Council that would eliminate it. And I just wanted to
24 understand it. What -- if this motion were not to pass and we were to appropriate the
25 \$691,400 to support personnel services and other critical and unanticipated needs in
26 the Planning Department 539,000 to provide capacity for the Planning Department to
27 continue working on the Growth Policy to -- presumably to respond to the explosive
28 growth that we're seeing around us in the last few months, and 403,000 for the
29 Department of Parks to provide funds to cover personnel services, what can we tell the
30 public it's getting for its money? What are the outcomes that we are [inaudible]?
31

32 Royce Hanson,

33 Well you're being asked to appropriate that amount of money. The committee is asking
34 that you appropriate only half of the amount for Parks, and 250,000 of the remaining
35 amount for Planning. So you're really -- .
36

37 Councilmember Leventhal,

38 So what it is we can tell the public that they're getting for their extra money.
39

40 Royce Hanson,

41 What you can probably can best tell the public is what they're not going to be getting.
42

43 Councilmember Leventhal,

44 And what is that?



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Royce Hanson,

One of the things we will be at a point in which it will be necessary, I believe, to reduce the amount of time that we're spending on projects. This may mean furloughs or some other reduction. We are really at a -- at a bare-bones point without some of this. You remember that we've already taken a 2% savings in the current year, which is substantially more than is being asked for, for either Parks or Planning in this case. And what we have done is to try to retain employees that we have already hired this year at the Council's request and direction.

Councilmember Leventhal,

And what is it that those employees will be producing over the balance of this fiscal year [inaudible]?

Royce Hanson,

They will be producing reviews of development projects. They will be producing master plans.

Councilmember Leventhal,

Reviews of development projects different from development review, which is not -- .

Royce Hanson,

Development review, yes. They will be doing.

Councilmember Leventhal,

But we've said that the 700 and -- .

Royce Hanson,

The 750 -- .

Councilmember Leventhal,

48,000 -- .

Royce Hanson,

Supplies the fund, it does not really cover the full cost of development review.

Councilmember Leventhal,

And so based on what you said in response to my question about development review, the fact that there are fewer projects coming before development review has not reduced the need for the same number of staff to review those projects that are still before -- .

Royce Hanson,



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1 Well we have some of those staff that are also working on other internal projects,
2 particularly on the revision of the Zoning Ordinance.

3
4 Councilmember Leventhal,
5 But that's not what the memo says. The memo says that primarily we would be getting a
6 lot more analysis on PAMR and LATR; is that not correct?

7
8 Royce Hanson,
9 No.

10
11 President Knapp,
12 That's actually what we're putting off.

13
14 Royce Hanson,
15 You're putting that off entirely.

16
17 Councilmember Leventhal,
18 That's been delayed.

19
20 President Knapp,
21 [Inaudible] the language consideration of the full budget.

22
23 Royce Hanson,
24 That -- those were things that the Council included in the Growth Policy Resolution that
25 we were asked to do and asked to return for funding for. And the committee has -- and
26 we did. And the committee has said don't do it, since those are things that we're not
27 currently funded to do, you know, at best you're postponing it; at worst, we will do it.

28
29 Councilmember Leventhal,
30 So these positions are all in development review that are being preserved in effect
31 through this special appropriation?

32
33 Royce Hanson,
34 There are -- well let me try -- .

35
36 Councilmember Leventhal,
37 In Planning; I understand Parks is [inaudible].

38
39 Royce Hanson,
40 Let me try to answer you exactly candor -- not necessarily all in development review.
41 There may be some effect on development review positions in order to meet the cut.
42 You know, if you fund none of the requests for Planning, in order to meet the cut af -- I
43 think we'll have to go further than the committee had suggested here, which is just
44 eliminating all outstanding consulting contracts, and reducing some of our other



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1 expenses. We will be cutting into staff support. I can't tell you off the top of my head just
2 exactly where, but it -- basically \$250,000 worth of staff support in the next two months.

3
4 Councilmember Leventhal,
5 Staff support meaning consultants?

6
7 Royce Hanson,
8 No, I mean staff. You know, we proposed our appropriation to you in February. It's now
9 April, and we have to essentially if we're cutting back on staff services, we have to cut a
10 lot more than would have been the case if we were taking this cut over four months.
11 We've got two months left in the fiscal year. It's not going to be pretty is all I can -- .

12
13 Councilmember Leventhal,
14 And do we -- is there any -- was there commentary before the committee? I don't see it
15 here in the packet about the Executive Branch's view on this special appropriation
16 request. I understand we have a different relationship with Park and Planning.

17
18 Marlene Michaelson,
19 It's subsequent to the committee.

20
21 Royce Hanson,
22 Yeah, the Executive doesn't want you to find any of it.

23
24 Marlene Michaelson,
25 The Executive does not recommend funding it, because when he developed the FY09
26 budget, it was with the assumption that the reserve for these funds would not be drawn
27 down by this supplemental.

28
29 Councilmember Leventhal,
30 Including the 750,000.

31
32 Marlene Michaelson,
33 Including all of it. So he does not support any part of it.

34
35 Councilmember Leventhal,
36 Okay. Well I'll obvious stay in support of the motion that I seconded. I mean, I'm sorry
37 that tough choices have to be made. I do -- I do appreciate the importance of revising
38 the zoning code. I think as we categorize those things that county government
39 absolutely must do for the health, safety, welfare, protection of its people, revisions to
40 the zoning code is somewhere on that list. I'm not sure quite how high.

41
42 President Knapp,
43 Councilmember Trachtenberg.



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1 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
2 Thank you, President Knapp. I know that over the course of the next few weeks and
3 months the sobering reality of current circumstances is going to become no doubt more
4 sobering. And, you know, I'm taking the position overall that when revenue is down then
5 expenses have to be brought down. So with that in mind, I'm going to support the
6 motion made by Councilmember Floreen. I think there's wisdom to it. It's clearly not an
7 easy choice for us to make, but no doubt it's one of many difficult conversations that
8 we're going to have with clearly all of the different departments that provide services
9 here in the County. I have some specific questions. Again, I apologize if they're
10 somewhat redundant. I wasn't at the PHED Committee discussion around this. And I
11 would ask Dr. Hanson two questions specific to the Growth Policy work that you're
12 board has been charged with. And one would relate to the local area transportation
13 review and the fact that you were calling for funding of a staff position again to
14 coordinate that review. And I guess staff indicated in the packet that there wasn't clarity
15 in their mind about why there needed to be a person. And I just wanted to ask the open-
16 ended question what would be the rationale for it that you are understaffed and that you
17 do need a specific hire to coordinate the review?

18
19 Royce Hanson,
20 If we're going to get into a for -- there were two elements of that. One was consultant
21 funding.

22
23 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
24 Right.

25
26 Royce Hanson,
27 To help do the initial work.

28
29 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
30 Okay.

31
32 Royce Hanson,
33 To think about a different way of doing local area transportation review. And the other
34 was to fund, I believe, a portion of a staff position to implement that measure once it
35 gets developed. And to assist in doing it.

36
37 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
38 Didn't seem like a lot.

39
40 Royce Hanson,
41 And this is in addition to what is normally and currently done. So it's more work.

42
43 Councilmember Trachtenberg,



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1 Right. Where are we, by the way, with the HTAI request that came through this body? I
2 know we asked for that to be developed. Have we begun that?

3
4 Royce Hanson,
5 I'm sorry the -- ?

6
7 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
8 The Housing Affordability Index call.

9
10 Karl Moritz,
11 Yes, we're working right now with the Virginia Tech and Dr. Chris Nelson there to
12 develop the Housing Transportation Affordability Index, which we plan to present to the
13 Planning Board in May.

14
15 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
16 Okay, so it will be presented in May and probably come back to us at some point late
17 summer.

18
19 Karl Moritz,
20 Yes.

21
22 Royce Hanson,
23 Yeah, that's in the current work program.

24
25 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
26 Okay. That's what I was referring to. Okay, thank you very much.

27
28 President Knapp,
29 Councilmember Floreen.

30
31 Councilmember Floreen,
32 Thank you. I just wanted to comment when George was asking his questions, I wanted
33 to make the point there is a lot of history here, not the least of which is that we did
34 increase the fees that go into development and review, I think it was 300%, Marlene?

35
36 Royce Hanson,
37 Correct.

38
39 Councilmember Floreen,
40 300% several years ago. And it's regrettable that it's apparently been spent, and that
41 there was a backlog. But at least that issue was respected by the committee. But, I
42 mean, the message is that that's as high as it's going to go for some time. And there's
43 got to be a better bread box to address the timeliness and nature of the reviews. That



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1 was a huge breathtaking increase that is part of the process of Park and Planning
2 manages. And so that goes -- that's part of the history of the challenge of all this.

3
4 President Knapp,

5 I appreciate the motion before us, and I believe both Mr. Leventhal and Ms. Floreen
6 raise similar issues when we had this discussion back in January or February. So I think
7 the motion is consistent with where they've been. I would submit that the Council has
8 indicated to the Planning Board that we were not sure that we would obviously address
9 the full 2% if it was there, but do we look at the pieces with diligence when they came
10 back. And I think what the majority of the Council recommended was to address a
11 number of costs that, as I understood them to be, more one-time charges and things to
12 get through the remainder of this year than they are anything that is going to add
13 personnel costs to the base going into next year. And I think we were clear in our
14 discussion that there were a lot of elements there that next year [inaudible] over the
15 course of our discussion over the next six weeks is going to be a difficult one to say the
16 least. And so while I am sympathetic to the motion before us, I will not support it
17 because I think it's -- in order for us to continue to right the ship that is Park and
18 Planning, we need to continue to fulfill some of our commitments, while at the same
19 time recognizing that we're not adding to the base going forward. And so I would urge
20 my colleagues' disapproval the motion before us. But that is the perspective of the chair
21 of the committee. Mr. Elrich.

22
23 Councilmember Elrich,

24 I share your perspective on this. I think that having gotten ourselves into a mess, we
25 have to figure out how to get out of the mess. I think leaving Park and Planning
26 understaffed for the job they're supposed to do is not going to serve anybody in the
27 community very well regardless of where you sit on any of the aspects of the debate,
28 which sometime divide us. A dysfunctional Park and Planning or one that cannot carry
29 out its mission is not a good thing. But I want to say that I think there is a recurring
30 theme here, and so I raise this with you all knowing that I've raised this with every
31 department around here, is that it is clear that business as usual is not going to work,
32 and that assumptions about next year simply based on what we've done this year and
33 staffing levels and organization of departments is not going to get us anywhere. The
34 money is clearly not going to be here. We're not going to get out of this budget hole this
35 year, and I don't expect us to be out of this budget hole next year. And I'd loathed in
36 year three even if I started to come out of the budget hole to put ourselves back into a
37 situation that's not sustainable the next time there's a downturn in the economy. And so
38 my concern is, you know, is Park and Planning looking at fundamentally how -- how you
39 structured to deliver the services. I don't question the services that we want to -- that
40 we're seeking to deliver. I think what we try to do is the right mix of things. But because
41 you deliver or try to deliver the right mix of things doesn't mean we're delivering them
42 the most effective or efficient way. And I think it is important for your department as it is
43 for every other department that I would include the school system in this to look at how
44 you go about completing your mission. I'm not questioning the mission, but I'm



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1 questioning whether, you know, your agency along with the other departments in the
2 County have grown and grown and grown, and we've glommed things on without
3 always thinking about, you know, how best to restructure in the process of adding on
4 new responsibilities and new areas of concern. And I hope that, you know, with the new
5 Planning Director that there's a, you know, a real serious look at the structural aspects
6 of your agency. Because if you simply think that we're going to fund everything that
7 you've got right now plus the adjustments for inflation and contracts, I don't see how
8 we're going to be able to do that this year or next year. And I would hate to at the same
9 time consign us to decline in the services of Park and Planning, or any other agency.

10
11 Royce Hanson,

12 I think you will see in both the directors of Planning and directors of Parks in the
13 presentations that he will make to you presently, that we're giving some very serious
14 thought to how better to organize our efforts and to increase the efficiencies of the
15 program -- of both programs. You'll remember that we started, I believe, as the only
16 agency that comes before you with a program budget as a first step in that direction.
17 Both directors are now working with staff to bring about some very substantial
18 improvements in the way in which the organization works. We were fortunate, I think, in
19 the current budget year in gaining support for some administrative assistance in this
20 regard. And over the course of the last two years there have been some major changes
21 in the organization and operations, particularly in planning of development review for
22 example. One of the key things that is being done there -- and you'll remember we had
23 recently before you a new development manual, which tries to lay out the precise steps
24 that have to be taken in the development process. And we're working to try to collapse
25 that period of time that's involved to more efficiently process the applications that we
26 have. So there are a whole series of steps that are being taken. And I'm very pleased
27 with what I see both directors doing, and I believe the Board is. And I think the Council
28 should and will be to see the kind of steps that are being taken to decrease unit costs
29 and to improve overall efficiency. The one thing that I don't kid Council about is that the
30 Park system, for example, has had over the last 10 years a 15% in acreage. It's had at
31 the same period of time a 5% increase in staff. Now those are not absolutely
32 symmetrical, but it's a rough indicator that we're still not up to speed. Our staff
33 complement now is about where it was in 2001, I believe. So we're trying to run a lean
34 organization. We are also in a period of increasing demand on the agency. And this
35 doesn't take away from the point that Councilmember Trachtenberg made about the
36 fiscal -- the general fiscal situation. But the fact that we are in that general fiscal
37 situation has not, at least so far as I'm able to tell, reduced either the demands that the
38 Council is making on us to produce things, or the demands that the public is making on
39 either department to produce things. About 70% of our ball fields, for example, are
40 operating at a use level well above national standards. In other words, we've got more
41 users, which produces enormous maintenance problems, which you hear about I'm
42 sure, because we hear about them all the time. So these are the kinds of things that
43 we're trying to work on. And we have, in some cases more slowly than anyone would



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1 like, and I think in other cases in reasonable periods of time, tried to make
2 improvements in this.

3
4 Councilmember Elrich,

5 If I wanted to ask you about -- maybe -- I don't know if this is a question for you or for
6 Mary. But I think it was in the last budget discussion there was talk about a technology
7 that would allow us to track, for example, the amount of time it takes to, you know, clean
8 a facility and the maintenance. Has that been implemented? I mean, do we have data
9 that -- .

10
11 Mary Bradford,

12 For the record, Mary Bradford, Director of Parks. Yes, we have a program called Smart
13 Parks, which we have been using to collect data and to set in work orders. This year, for
14 the first time, we were able to use the Smart Parks data to work on our major
15 maintenance, knowing how much it ought to cost to do something. I bought it with me; I
16 just sort of scratch up from when I was working on it. But you can see we have charts.
17 We've calculated. We're using that data now to input into all of our maintenance
18 decisions so that we can figure out what it ought to cost, what it will cost, and plan for
19 that. And we're starting to use that data. One of the things we were asking for originally
20 in our upcoming budget, which we're having to regroup a little bit and look at; but we
21 feel is critical is to get to the next stage in that, and to bring aboard someone who can
22 take that data and produce reports that managers can use even more. Right now we're
23 doing almost all of our work through that program, and it's really taken hold and it's how
24 we do our business. So we are gaining many efficiencies from that. We see it beginning;
25 we'd like to continue with it.

26
27 Councilmember Elrich,

28 Is that something you will be able to provide the Council. I mean, you should be able to
29 show us where the efficiencies are and what the gains are?

30
31 Mary Bradford,

32 About a year ago we gave a briefing to this Council on the Smart Parks program. I don't
33 remember if it was a full Council or the PHED Committee. But we can certainly bring
34 you up to speed on where we are today, and what we're using it for, yes.

35
36 Royce Hanson,

37 One other thing that I really do want to brag on is the energy conservation program that
38 we have undertaken. The result of that is very substantial savings in our energy costs
39 even at a time in which the unit costs of energy is rising. So we've been able to reduce
40 our energy costs in the face of rising energy -- .

41
42 Mary Bradford,



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1 Our energy costs are actually going down; which is remarkable. I give full credit to all of
2 our staff for making that happen. It's been an amazing program. And we'd like to be
3 able to continue it.

4
5 President Knapp,
6 Councilmember Ervin.

7
8 Councilmember Ervin,
9 I am not going to support Ms. Floreen's motion, and the reason why is coming up next
10 when we get into the conversations about Master Plans, and how we're going to keep
11 Park and Planning on its work schedule. And these Master Plans for me are very
12 important and sort of speak to the work of the commission. The second thing I wanted
13 to address is Councilmember Elrich's comments about glomming on and about
14 efficiencies. My attention goes directly to the \$539,000 that was going to be asked for,
15 for Growth Policy. And I see on circle 3, even though we're not asking for funding that
16 today, it appears from the packet that this is going to come back to us that we have
17 \$28,400 to fund a new position in the countywide planning division to implement the
18 increased workload due to the adoption of policy area mobility review; \$32,200 to fund a
19 new position in the research and technology center to manage the increased
20 development tracking, reporting and analysis required by the changes to the school test,
21 and adoption of PAMR; \$300,000 in consulting funds; and \$28,400 to fund a new senior
22 planner position in the countywide planning transportation planning division to work on
23 the following Growth Policy studies. And it says what those are. And \$150,000 in
24 consultant funds to conduct traffic counts, et cetera. So since we're not funding that
25 today, who's going to do that work?

26
27 Royce Hanson,
28 Nobody.

29
30 Councilmember Ervin,
31 So how does that affect the policy?

32
33 Royce Hanson,
34 Well some of the things that I think Council had hoped would be available as we begin
35 in 2009 to prepare for you the next Growth Policy will at least be done without those --
36 without the information and without those projects having been there.

37
38 Councilmember Ervin,
39 And so we're not going to have play one off on the other; for example, I will -- and we'll
40 bring this up in a little bit -- I'll bring it up again about the Kensington master plan being
41 delayed another month. I just hope that that doesn't get in the way of getting these
42 master plans off and running.

43
44 Royce Hanson,



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1 No, these elements that were in the Growth Policy are -- the reason we asked for
2 supplement for them is because they are activities that were essentially ordered by the
3 Growth Policy resolution for which we -- without going back to change the work
4 program, have no staff to do. It's a zero-sum gain in that respect. If we are to do these
5 things then there's that much stuff that is now in the work program that we would not be
6 doing. And we did not detect -- and we listened very carefully -- an inclination on the
7 part of the Council to tell us to not do the other things in the work program.

8
9 Councilmember Ervin,
10 Like the master plans.

11
12 Royce Hanson,
13 Like master plans.

14
15 President Knapp,
16 Okay, final comment, then we have to vote on the motion before us. Councilmember
17 Floreen.

18
19 Councilmember Floreen,
20 Thank you. Just quickly, this goes basically to filling vacancies; this doesn't hurt real
21 people yet. And I am concerned -- I'll just make the point. At a certain point, if we're
22 serious about being careful with this budget, we're going to start hitting real people. And
23 I would really rather deal with the people who aren't here yet before we look at existing
24 positions.

25
26 Royce Hanson,
27 I believe so. I think each director might want to comment on that.

28
29 President Knapp,
30 That's okay.

31
32 Royce Hanson,
33 The answer is you've left in a little reservoir -- the committee did -- to keep from hurting
34 real people.

35
36 President Knapp,
37 Right. That was premise behind what we did. Okay. We have before use a motion to
38 remove \$451,500 from the committee recommendation. All in support of the motion
39 indicate by raising your hand? Councilmember Leventhal, Councilmember
40 Trachtenberg, and Councilmember Floreen. All opposed to the motion raise your hand?
41 Councilmember Ervin, Councilmember Berliner, Councilmember Vice President
42 Andrews, Councilmember Elrich, and myself. The motion fails 3-5. Now we have before
43 us the committee recommendation, which is to fund \$201,000 of the Department of
44 Parks' request; \$148,300 for the Development Review Special Revenue fund; and



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1 \$250,000 of the Planning Department's request. All in support of the committee
2 recommendation? Okay. Councilmember Ervin, Councilmember Berliner, Council Vice
3 President Andrews, myself, Councilmember Elrich. All opposed? Councilmember
4 Trachtenberg, Councilmember Leventhal, Councilmember Floreen. We actually need
5 votes to do that as I understood it; is that correct, Madam Chair?

6
7 Marlene Michaelson,
8 That's right. This is a special appropriation. You do need six votes in it.

9
10 President Knapp,
11 Okay, then we don't have the required six votes, so the whole appropriation goes down;
12 am I correct in my assessment?

13
14 Marlene Michaelson,
15 Correct -- you know, unless there's an alternative motion that gets six votes.

16
17 President Knapp,
18 We're spending more time on this than we are on the actual money we're trying to
19 resolve. I would entertain any motion to try to resolve the issue. Since I believe there's
20 an agreement to fund.

21
22 Councilmember Floreen,
23 Yeah. I would move that we fund the Special Revenue Fund, the 748,300 using MNC
24 PPC Administrative Fund Reserve.

25
26 Councilmember Elrich,
27 Second.

28
29 President Knapp,
30 All right.

31
32 Councilmember Berliner,
33 Clarification, if could please. And that differs from the original -- .

34
35 President Knapp,
36 It doesn't, so I'm sure we can actually bring that back as a similar motion; can we?

37
38 Councilmember Berliner,
39 My hope is that we could cut the difference with respect to -- .

40
41 President Knapp,
42 That's not been proposed.

43
44 Councilmember Berliner,



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1 Between us in order to allow this to move forward. And I would propose that we literally
2 cut the difference between that which had been proposed by the original amendment
3 and that which would have gone forward with a majority vote. So see if we can get a six-
4 vote with respect to this matter.

5
6 President Knapp,
7 So the recommendation would be to effectively take the committee recommendation for
8 the Department Parks down to 100,000 and the committee recommendation for the
9 Planning Department's request down to 125; so effectively funding the Development
10 Review Special Revenue Fund at 748,300 and then taking down 125,000 -- or 200 -- .

11
12 Marlene Michaelson,
13 225.

14
15 President Knapp,
16 Right.

17
18 Councilmember Berliner,
19 That's my motion?

20
21 President Knapp,
22 That's the motion. Is there a second?

23
24 Councilmember Elrich,
25 Second.

26
27 President Knapp,
28 Okay. We'll try this again.

29
30 Councilmember Leventhal,
31 Can we have discussion?

32
33 President Knapp,
34 Sure; discussion on the motion.

35
36 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
37 Discussion.

38
39 President Knapp,
40 We have a motion and a second.

41
42 Councilmember Leventhal,
43 Okay, it appears that Mr. Berliner's motion was a motion in the form of substitute for Ms.
44 Floreen's motion. And so if Mr. Berliner, as he said he was, was shopping for a sixth



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1 vote, of the list of items here -- I'm -- as -- I am in agreement with Ms. Floreen's
2 remarks. I mean, we are going to have to do some pretty difficult and painful and hard
3 and tough things. And there are going to be things we're going to have to say no to. And
4 when it comes to, you know, a couple of months delays on some master plans or, you
5 know, as much as a year's delay in reformulating the zoning code or sending us a whole
6 lot more memos to explain just how pay more and later can work better; and these kinds
7 of things. I think some of these things probably may have to wait a few months. On the
8 litany of -- I mean, if the Council President is going to keep this before us until we
9 resolve it, and if it is necessary that -- if it is necessary that we stay here on this agenda
10 item until something passes, I would just say that if, you know, if my vote is on in the
11 grocery cart here -- .

12
13 President Knapp,
14 It may very well be.

15
16 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
17 It might be right on top.

18
19 Councilmember Leventhal,
20 Okay. I will just say that of the list of public needs that are categorized here, those
21 needs that I'm the most sympathetic to are maintenance and upkeep of the parks. So
22 that if there were one of my colleagues looking, you know, could I compromise, could I
23 throw a vote in the direction of some of this, the, you know, again, I don't notice an
24 explosive rate of growth here in the last few months. So the extreme urgency of
25 controlling it seems a bit different now than perhaps it was earlier in this Council's term.
26 And so I'm less sympathetic to the urgency of filling those vacant positions. I do think
27 that my constituents see a direct correlation between getting the grass mowed and
28 getting the buildings maintained and getting the play equipment maintained, and making
29 sure the parks look nice and are usable. So I'll just leave it at that. If, you know, I'm not
30 necessarily looking for a compromise. It seems to me the Council spoke and we do
31 have the six-vote rule and we didn't get six votes. So the Council President's judgment
32 could be simply to move the agenda at this point. But if the Council President is going to
33 park us here on this agenda item, I would be looking for a compromise that put money
34 back into the parks and probably not in the other areas.

35
36 President Knapp,
37 Okay, I would suggest to the maker of the motion that perhaps we revisit this -- the
38 number -- actually change the numbers and reallocate.

39
40 Councilmember Berliner,
41 Or if we keep the number basically the same.

42
43 President Knapp,
44 Right.



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1
2 Councilmember Berliner,
3 I think it's close to keeping the numbers the same but giving Parks all the dollars; half
4 the dollars [inaudible] 2.5 -- .
5

6 Royce Hanson,
7 Mr. President, just for a point of clarification. You're not -- Mr. Berliner's motion would
8 not allow us to fill any positions. What we face in Planning in particular is actions -- I
9 want to put this in public session as delicately as I can -- that impair existing positions.
10

11 Councilmember Leventhal,
12 Well, I'm only one Councilmember, but if I may, Mr. President. I was willing to go along
13 with the Floreen amendment, which would have preserved 750,000 for development
14 review. So my position remains, you know, if the Council is sympathetic to the
15 Chairman's sense of extreme urgency that we capitalize this fund, which was supposed
16 to be self-supporting; you can sense some skepticism in my tone and it is present.
17

18 President Knapp,
19 There is.
20

21 Councilmember Leventhal,
22 But I already indicated a willingness to vote for \$750,000 for development review with
23 some regret. And if you want to add to that amount, that amount that the committee
24 recommended for the Parks, then you could pick up a vote from Leventhal for that.
25

26 President Knapp,
27 Is there a maker of the motion?
28

29 Councilmember Berliner,
30 I will so move, because I believe that's the only way I'm going to get a sixth vote here.
31

32 President Knapp,
33 Okay. Is there is a second?
34

35 Councilmember Elrich,
36 Second.
37

38 President Knapp,
39 Is the second -- okay. We have before us now a motion to approve the 749,000 --
40 substitute amendment for development review special fund and 201,500 for the
41 Department of Parks. All in support of the amendment indicate by raising your hand?
42 We have Mr. Leventhal, Ms. Ervin, Mr. Berliner, Council Vice President Andrews, Mr.
43 Elrich and myself. That is six votes. All those opposed? Councilmember Floreen,
44 Councilmember Trachtenberg. The motion carries. And we're off to the races. Now



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1 having expeditiously resolved that issue, we can move to the semiannual report with
2 Park and Planning. I would turn to Mr. Chairman for some opening remarks. As I
3 understand it, we would like to begin with the Parks Department to focus some attention
4 there to make sure we get to it. And then we will transition to Planning, in which we will
5 have our first opportunity as a full Council to hear from Mr. Stanley, our new Planning
6 Director. And he will do some of the overview, as I understand it.

7
8 Royce Hanson,
9 Very good.

10
11 President Knapp,
12 Thank you.

13
14 Royce Hanson,
15 My remarks are very brief. This is, of course, our first semiannual report of this calendar
16 year. And we tried to lay out in this report a good bit of information about where we are
17 and where we're headed. And we're probably not quite where we were a few minutes
18 ago, but we'll make the best of that as we can. I think I was just -- because of the time
19 that everybody's concerned about -- .

20
21 President Knapp,
22 Dr. Hanson. Turn on your microphone.

23
24 Royce Hanson,
25 I'm sorry. And our other Commissioners are here; Commissioner Bryant is here. Is
26 Commissioner Robinson here? There we go. Just looking the wrong way. Our
27 Commission Cryor is still recovering from some surgery and we expect to have her back
28 at the Board this next week. Before we start I do want to mention one thing that I noted
29 in the transmittal letter. This will be Commissioner Bryant's last semiannual review
30 opportunity. And I just want to say that he has, and is continuing to make an important
31 contribution to the Commission, not only in our deliberations as a Planning Board and
32 Parks Commission, but also he took on some time ago the chairmanship of our Board of
33 Trustees for the Retirement Fund. And under his leadership our retirement fund has just
34 done great. Its return on its investment has increased substantially. He is, as you know,
35 a strong advocate of performance measures and performance evaluations. And he has
36 applied his talents to that task. So not only are the current members of the Board and
37 the residents of the County in his debt, that all of our retirees now and in the future are
38 in his debt. And he's really provided great service to this County in the ten-plus years
39 that he's served on our board.

40
41 President Knapp,
42 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you, Commissioner Bryant, for your efforts;
43 Commissioner Robinson. We appreciate the efforts of all of you who have chosen to
44 serve and your willingness. We know that it's not simple, and the last hour's worth of



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1 discussion shows some of the issues that we're confronting. But we appreciate very
2 much your service, and I expect this won't be the last time we see you, but certainly
3 your last semiannual meeting.

4
5 Alison Bryant,
6 Absolutely my last semiannual review.

7
8 President Knapp,
9 Mr. Chairman, before you get started, I just wanted to make one kind of broader point.
10 And that is over, at least, the six years, I think Commissioners and I think
11 Councilmembers have struggled with the semiannual meeting. It is a good opportunity
12 for the transmittal of information to go through things like the work plan. I think we've
13 also all felt that it is a somewhat stilted conversation and that we all kind of get an
14 opportunity to ask one or two questions, but there's not much of a dialogue that takes
15 place. And so I appreciate the Planning Board's willingness to work with the Council
16 over the last couple months to set up a more regular informal discussion during our
17 lunches, because I think it gives us an opportunity to have that discourse that we don't
18 necessarily get at this meeting. But I think we necessarily all recognize has to happen,
19 so I thank you for working with us on that. And I hope that we continue to build upon
20 that, because I think it -- .

21
22 Royce Hanson,
23 We very much appreciate that opportunity, Mr. President. I think that's very important for
24 us to be able to have not only these kinds of formal occasions, but a more informal kind
25 of exchange of ideas and views. Now to get to the formal part, I've asked each of our
26 Directors to give you a short presentation complete with Power Point, to help get across
27 some of the ideas that they're working on in respective departments. And first, because
28 I know once we get into the Planning issues, Parks won't get any air time, I turn to Mary
29 Bradford.

30
31 President Knapp,
32 I think it's a good suggestion. Thank you. Ms. Bradford.

33
34 Mary Bradford,
35 Hello. Thank you all very much for your attention. I won't read you every slide on the
36 Power Point -- .

37
38 President Knapp,
39 Thank you.

40
41 Mary Bradford,
42 Because I figure you can all read, so I'll just highlight a few things for you as we go
43 through it. It's really just a snapshot, but understanding the fiscal constraints we're
44 coming through coming into the coming year, there's also a couple of points on here of



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1 kind of where we're going to try to put our focus. Is this working? Let me see. There we
2 go. Okay. I just wanted to tell you about our size. The Chairman alluded to that, but we
3 do have 10% of the land in the County in our care. We've been focusing a lot of our
4 effort in the last many years on the public facilities. And that's a quite a number up
5 there. When you go through our budget and you break it down by facility, we're not
6 spending that much per facility. And in some cases it shows. What we focused on more
7 in the last couple of years is some of the natural resources that we're responsible for.
8 You'll see we start out with 500 ponds and lakes. We've got enough streams to take us
9 to New York and back practically. And so we're trying to put some attention on that
10 including volunteer hours. All the rest of it you can see any number of facilities in park
11 areas; over 400 parks. Is this thing working; there we go. We were quite intrigued with
12 the recent resident survey of Montgomery County residents. We found that second --
13 we were only second to recycling in the level of participation of residents in county
14 services, which was -- we knew we were popular, but we were glad we were runner-up
15 to recycling and pretty much ahead of everything else, including schools and libraries
16 and other facilities. People use the parks. The Chairman mentioned about the park-land
17 acreage with our work-year comparison. You see in the last year we were able to try to
18 bring that up a little bit. We're grateful for the support we got from the Council last year;
19 and we have put that to good use, believe me. We're, at the request of the Council, we
20 began a facility assessment of all of our buildings and structures. You'll remember on
21 the preceding list how many there were. And we've only begun to take one bite of the
22 apple, and we've assessed about 40 buildings so far -- 43 I believe. And we're
23 discovering all the things that we didn't know about what it's going to cost to make them
24 safe and habitable. And we're a little worried as the coming budget cycle comes up,
25 because now that we know this, we have an affirmative duty to either fix these things or
26 take them out of the public service. So these are some of the statistics; I won't read
27 them aloud to you except to note that it's over one million in just -- in backlog in what
28 we've assessed so far. We've talked about the challenge ahead with the budget. We've
29 sort of analyzed it, and it looks like if we were to come in at 2% below the Executive's
30 budget recommendation, which I understand is one of the discussions being brought at
31 Council and amongst staff; it could affectively mean a \$9.6 million cut below a same-
32 services budget. In other words, what we're doing now, we would have to lose about 9
33 million. And I can give you all the backup data for that that you need. We're just going
34 over it lightly in this report.

35
36 President Knapp,
37 Same services defined as what?

38
39 Mary Bradford,
40 Same services is what we are doing right now in terms of [inaudible] our natural and
41 cultural resources, taking care of our facilities and fields. That's because our budget
42 increases in large measure because of certain fixed increases such as employee
43 compensation and benefits and GASBY.



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1 President Knapp,

2 Let me clarify that. I guess same services and number of employees; same services
3 and number of acreage -- not of acreage -- addressed.

4
5 Mary Bradford,

6 All of that. Same services and number of employees, same number of acres, same
7 number of facilities, same level of use.

8
9 President Knapp,

10 Okay, so nothing changes [inaudible].

11
12 Mary Bradford,

13 Nothing changes.

14
15 Marlene Michaelson,

16 And this is something we'll address more when we get to their budget.

17
18 Mary Bradford,

19 And that's, by the way, one of the reasons efficiencies are important, which brings us to
20 the next slide. Our efficiencies include the energy conservation was already mentioned;
21 our volunteer program has been terrific. We've bringing more money in grants. I've got
22 an employee who does nothing but bring in grants money, and she makes her salary
23 several times over. We're trying to take a look at what we have, as I said, and figure out
24 what's wrong, what needs fixing, so that we can make rational and careful and
25 prioritized decisions about where we do spend our money. That will become
26 increasingly more important. And we get that data from our FEA facility inventory
27 assessment Smart Parks and other factors. We're also looking at revenue generation. I
28 mean, we also bring in revenue; a point that's often forgotten. We don't just spend
29 money; we bring money in. And we're trying to figure out revenue enhancements, and
30 we have a number of programs ahead of us. And we'll get into that with the upcoming
31 budget. Facility management, we've talked about a little bit. We're finding there are
32 things that we can do very well; things that we need to work on. And I mentioned
33 already, prioritizing projects through Smart Parks. And taking a look at some of these
34 new acquisitions were getting. These days when we get a new park acquisition, it pretty
35 much always has a building on it, and that brings its own set of challenges. And that's
36 something we're looking at very, very strongly. Is that clear?

37
38 President Knapp,

39 You can move [inaudible].

40
41 Mary Bradford,

42 Balancing field care and use; same thing. This Council has a vested interest in how we
43 manage and handle our athletic fields. In the semiannual report you'll see all the things
44 we've been doing to try to get some of the un-permitted use under control, how to



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1 manage it better, and how to use our resources most efficiently. Park activity buildings --
2 we've also had a separate briefing for the Council on that, so I won't get into that,
3 except that we continue to look at this. And we have added a category of community
4 value to the cost and capacity use statistics we were using to evaluate them. Clearly in
5 the upcoming budget we're going to have to look very carefully at whether it's really part
6 of a core mission for us if we're getting enough out of this to warrant the kind of money it
7 would take to fix a lot of them up. So that will come up ahead in the budget time. We
8 have really tried to get into all these historic buildings that we have; about 110 of them
9 in the park system. Most of them are melting away, falling into the ground. We get a lot
10 of complaints. We're worried about vandalism and destruction. We've got some
11 premiere world-class sites here such as Uncle Tom's Cabin; we're working on that.
12 We'd hate to see that program drop off the screen completely. It's important to the
13 people of this county. It's important to our history of Montgomery County. And so you
14 will see as we go forward some CIP proposals, at least, to begin to do some of the
15 work. We are -- have staffed up in this past year in that. We would hope to add more,
16 but we understand what's going on. Sorry -- green management -- there we go. Okay.
17 We talked a little bit about that in addition to recycling and energy conservation. We've
18 got bio-diesel. We're buying hybrid cars. We're -- this is a continuous improvement
19 initiative, I guess you'd say. There's always more that we can do, and we're proceeding
20 with that -- composting toilets, better management of our equestrian facilities to control
21 runoff lots of green management practices. Our park information and customer service
22 office, we're very proud of how our complaints and our response to complaints' time
23 have dropped in the last couple of years. I give full credit to staff for really turning things
24 around quickly. We're really on the spot. We get a lot of press, a lot of publicity about
25 what we're doing. As people travel long distances less and less, they're filling up our
26 parks and programs close to home, and we're trying to accommodate them. And we can
27 certainly brief you on that anytime you would like to learn more about that. Urban parks
28 -- our county is rapidly urbanizing. We have a team looking at that. These parks are
29 going to be really different from what we're used to running. It's not just a suburban
30 park. These are places people come, drop out of their buildings for lunch, and have a
31 mix of commercial and park development in them. They could run in many different
32 ways. But where they're location, how they're operated, how they're designed are
33 something that we're just opening up now and really starting to take a look at.
34 Partnerships and volunteers, what a successful program. We get so much out of our
35 volunteers. We get over 60,000 hours at last count; over a million dollars worth of
36 dedicated service. We get our grants programs. We have partners who come in. We've
37 begun a process of assessing our partners to make sure that our partners don't cost us
38 more money than we're able -- than they're able to bring to the table. And one of the
39 things we'd asked for in years ahead was more support for that program. Our enterprise
40 fund, we have a number of recommendations that will be coming to you shortly. And
41 we'll be glad to share that with the Council when we're ready for that, which will be
42 soon. We've hired playground safety crews. We promised you we would. We had
43 problems with wood sealing on some of the playgrounds. We've got 296 playgrounds,
44 last count, and some look great; some need help; all of them need to be inspected



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1 regularly. Our trails -- people love our trails. And our comprehensive trail program is
2 underway. We finally have a hard surface trail crew beginning to get out there. We've
3 got a wonderful new trail volunteer program helping with our natural surface trails. And
4 we're actually trying to manage these trails and improve access and protection all along
5 them. Water quality -- we decided to create a category in our management of streams.
6 We really didn't even consider those separately, but with as many streams and
7 protecting the water shed of Montgomery County, we've begun a concentrated effort in
8 stream protection restoration assessment in all the rest. That's a wonderful program,
9 and it may even lead to revival of a program long dormant called Stream Striders
10 protecting our stream valleys much like we have trail groups and other volunteer
11 groups. Graffiti control -- we are actively involved with the County on a task force in
12 graffiti abatement. Our park police, I've had the opportunity to ride around and watch
13 how they know who's put what where. They're really plugged into this. We can tell a lot
14 from graffiti about who's causing damage to our parks. We're very supportive of this.
15 We've come a long way. Things go up in the parks. They get out of there in a hurry.
16 Capital Improvements Program -- you've been briefed on that separately. We get not
17 only the programs that you fund, but also parks -- developer built parks they're coming
18 on line. We always have to remember they have associated operating and management
19 cost. And you can see from the list all the new parks that are coming on. And of course
20 our work with the ICC. In conclusion then, I would say our parks are popular, demand is
21 going up. The facilities are aging, that's to be expected. We've always got new ones
22 coming on line. Even if we were to stop acquisition now, we have renovations, we have
23 developer built parks. We're working on efficiency and management practices, providing
24 training for our staff. We need repairs and improvements in many of the aging facilities.
25 And we are kind of worried about the current budget climate. We know that we've made
26 good progress in the last couple of years; we urge your support in continuing to make
27 progress in the future. That's all I have, and thank you very much.

28
29 President Knapp,
30 Thank you very much. Councilmember Berliner.

31
32 Councilmember Berliner,
33 Just a brief comment. It does not surprise me that parks are one of those things that our
34 County loves, and I would assume that when we do the quality of life indicators that
35 parks are going to be among those things that you look at and value. Because I believe
36 it is important that we have these parks. And it is wonderful that our people enjoy them
37 so much. I wanted to ask you if you would to separately provide us with some of the
38 details that you are doing on the energy conservation side, because I do think you have
39 a very good story to tell. And I believe that the rest of our County government may be
40 able to learn from you with respect to it. So I would appreciate more granularity with
41 respect to the details as to how you -- .

42
43 Royce Hanson,



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1 We'll send that to the -- the department recently made a presentation to the board on
2 that, and I think Mary could just send that [inaudible].

3
4 Mary Bradford,
5 We could do a report for the Council, if you like, or just send the report forward as
6 written.

7
8 Councilmember Berliner,
9 That would be great. I also wanted to commend you for your looking at urban parks.
10 When I worked in the United States Senate back in 1976 and 7, and I was the staff
11 person who worked on urban park bill for the country. And we got that through will Phil
12 Burton, who was in the House side at that time.

13
14 Mary Bradford,
15 I remember Phil Burton very well.

16
17 Councilmember Berliner,
18 And it was -- .

19
20 Mary Bradford,
21 I [inaudible] at the Golden Gate Park.

22
23 Councilmember Berliner,
24 That was his passion. And so I appreciate your focus on that, because it is important
25 that those spaces be looked at and be made available.

26
27 Mary Bradford,
28 As areas get more dense, what we found is these are people who don't have a
29 backyard to walk their dog, go out, exercise, take their children out. We become their
30 backyard. And that means that's something very different from the way parks were.
31 They're not just a supplement to people's yards, they often become people's yards.

32
33 Councilmember Berliner
34 Thank you.

35
36 Mary Bradford,
37 Thank you.

38
39 President Knapp,
40 Councilmember Floreen.

41
42 Councilmember Floreen,
43 Thank you. Thank you very much, Ms. Bradford, for all the improvements you've
44 brought to the park system. I know our previous conversation may have -- may have



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1 suggested that we were viewing your initiatives in a negative way, and that is by no
2 means the case. It is a really -- the fiscal argument that we're going to have up here not
3 you, because I think you've just done a fabulous job. So I just wanted to thank you.

4
5 Mary Bradford,
6 I'd like to thank all the people of the Parks Department for pulling together on this too.

7
8 Councilmember Floreen,
9 Yes. And your staff.

10
11 Mary Bradford,
12 They really did.

13
14 Councilmember Floreen,
15 But I do have two issues that I'd like you to get back to us on. Number one is one that
16 came up in a town hall meeting the other night. And that has to do with the carousel in
17 Wheaton that I know very well belongs up on Route 27. And I understand the story that
18 -- well, I don't know what the story is at this point. I certainly have heard it. The
19 community I think has a legitimate point -- .

20
21 Mary Bradford,
22 Absolutely.

23
24 Councilmember Floreen,
25 In terms of getting that carousel returned. And, you know, it's a nice thing to have in
26 Wheaton, and I encourage the Parks Foundation to raise the funds for another one. But
27 in the meantime I really do think that we need a plan for restoring that carousel to where
28 it's supposed to be.

29
30 Mary Bradford,
31 May I?

32
33 Councilmember Floreen,
34 By all means.

35
36 Mary Bradford,
37 I have actually spoken with a number of the people up in the community. I talked -- I've
38 spoken with them -- just written a letter recently on it. Gone to look at the carousel.
39 Reviewed the deeds. And in fact the carousel that's now in Wheaton Regional Park is to
40 go over at Hayes and Wells Park when there's a critical mass of people living there and
41 the park is finished. It's ready. It's time to begin the move. There are kind of two funding
42 pieces to this; and I know funding is not really the best thing to say at this point. But we
43 have to prepare a site at Hayes and Wells to receive the carousel. We have to
44 dismantle the carousel at Wheaton Regional, transport it, and place it on the site. That's



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1 one kind of expenditure level that's going to have to happen. That is currently in our
2 budget -- CIP program at 2013. I have asked staff to see because of the obligation we
3 have under the agreement that was signed way back when we put the carousel in if that
4 can be moved up. And they are looking at that now.

5
6 Councilmember Floreen,
7 Good.

8
9 Mary Bradford,
10 The second funding piece that you alluded to was the people in Wheaton will lose
11 something that they have now come to consider theirs. And we don't have anything in
12 the budget to do a replacement carousel, but we did charge our Parks Foundation that
13 this might be one of their premiere fundraising opportunities.

14
15 Councilmember Floreen,
16 And I believe back when I was on the Parks Foundation it was and, you know, it's been
17 a while. I'm glad to hear that. Thank you for your communication with the community.
18 And we need to work together on it addressing that issue.

19
20 Mary Bradford,
21 My pleasure.

22
23 Councilmember Floreen,
24 The other one though is this situation with the Long Branch pedestrian bridge. We were
25 at a community meeting recently, and I believe that bridge is in the CIP at this point.

26
27 Mary Bradford,
28 That's correct.

29
30 Councilmember Floreen,
31 For construction. But I am very distressed and some of my colleagues I think are with
32 respect to the demands that the Parks Department has made of that bridge,
33 consequently turning -- requiring it to be a very large bridge that drove up the cost and
34 delayed the project. So I think it's -- we need -- it's something that we need to sit down
35 and talk about in terms of how we can get to good if not perfect in this world of serving
36 community needs and safety, while at the same time respecting costs. And I know that's
37 a whole conversation, and I wanted to highlight that for a further time.

38
39 Mary Bradford,
40 I agree, and I'm willing to look into that. Thank you.

41
42 Councilmember Floreen,
43 Thanks.



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1 President Knapp,
2 Councilmember Leventhal.

3
4 Councilmember Leventhal,
5 Could we go back to that slide at the beginning where you talk about all the pools and
6 lakes and parks and streams, and how many of them you have, and facilities and all
7 that? It was a very impressive litany. Yeah, 289 playgrounds, 189 miles of trails. It is
8 very impressive. It's a lot to maintain.

9
10 President Knapp,
11 Yep.

12
13 Councilmember Leventhal,
14 Could we get the exact number of how many houses are in our park system.

15
16 Mary Bradford,
17 Yes, I think we can. We're around 60 houses, I believe. Is that right? Sixty houses.

18
19 Councilmember Leventhal,
20 Okay, so could we -- and along with that could we get the exact locations and current
21 uses of those houses.

22
23 Mary Bradford,
24 Yes, we can get you that.

25
26 Councilmember Leventhal,
27 I appreciate that.

28
29 Mary Bradford,
30 Quite a few of them are occupied either by nonprofit groups, workforce housing, that
31 sort of thing.

32
33 Councilmember Leventhal,
34 Right. And this would just be for my information. I understand not all of it may be public
35 information.

36
37 Mary Bradford,
38 Yes.

39
40 Councilmember Leventhal,
41 And I understand that.

42
43 Mary Bradford,
44 Well, get that for you.



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1
2 Councilmember Leventhal,
3 Or the Council's information.

4
5 Mary Bradford,
6 Yeah, a couple of them are boarded up because they have health and safety issues, or
7 asbestos problems.

8
9 Councilmember Leventhal,
10 Well if your inventory could explain that.

11
12 Mary Bradford,
13 We could sort that all out for you, yes.

14
15 Councilmember Leventhal,
16 But I do appreciate the -- where you have people living in them, I respect their privacy. It
17 would not be my intent to, you know, publish it on the internet.

18
19 Mary Bradford,
20 We will.

21
22 President Knapp,
23 I had just a couple of specific questions. And I appreciate the efforts that you and the
24 team had to go out and meet with the folks out in Poolesville Beallsville areas as it
25 relates to the Woodstock Equestrian Park. What are -- a meeting this morning with
26 Councilmember Leventhal with some folks on that as well -- where do the next steps for
27 what we see proceeding there is?

28
29 Mary Bradford,
30 We're proceeding right now. We've just put out the RFP for the work on the east side of
31 the park; that's the outdoor riding rings, and that's moving along pretty well. We got the
32 money.

33
34 President Knapp,
35 And an RFP seeking a private partner to -- .

36
37 Mary Bradford,
38 Seeking -- well to get it to -- I don't know if it's a contractor or an RFP exactly. We were
39 trying to get -- we're getting a design in. We've done some preliminary work on the
40 design and our staff designer, Mike, perhaps you have some more details.

41
42 Mike Reilly,
43 This Mike Reilly, Deputy Director of Parks. We just had a pre-proposal meeting with
44 design engineer and architecture consultants to basically finalize the design of the east



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1 side of the park, do the operating costs, to estimate the capital cost, so that we can
2 bring succinct funding proposal to the Council that would demonstrate to -- through
3 after, of course, public hearings and Board approval, exactly what it would cost to do
4 that first phase of development.

5
6 President Knapp,

7 Okay. Good. I appreciate that. And I would just urge you -- the one point, I think, it's still
8 -- of the meeting we had was a very good meeting and clarified a lot of issues for the
9 community. I still there are some points of confusion, and so just as you continue to
10 work your process along to make sure that there's that outreach component. Because I
11 think that stories have a tendency to take on lives of their own, whether real or not.

12
13 Mary Bradford,

14 We can continue the outreach that we began at that meeting. And I want to personally
15 thank you for coming there. I thought you wrapped it up very well. Your presence was --

16 .

17
18 President Knapp,

19 Thank you. You guys had all the substance though.

20
21 Mary Bradford,

22 Very helpful.

23
24 President Knapp,

25 The other two pieces -- and these are both in South Germantown. You have the RFP for
26 what was going to be a tennis and fitness center. I know and RFP was issued a couple
27 weeks ago, I think. Where do we -- do we have a sense of timing for that? And what are
28 we actually issuing an RFP for? Because I know there were specifics as it related to a
29 tennis and fitness center the previous time. Are we looking at the same type of activity
30 or something whatever people may propose?

31
32 Mike Reilly,

33 The RFP is for a public-private partner for the development entity or partner to actually
34 propose development of that site to show us what they would bring to the table. I don't
35 believe we restricted the use to a tennis center. I think we opened up the scope a little
36 bit, but made sure that it was consistent with our pros plan and needs and whatnot.

37
38 President Knapp,

39 Okay. And then along those same lines, there was also, I believe, a 25-acre parcel
40 adjacent to the South Germantown Park that there was supposed to -- I don't know if -- I
41 thought the acquisition had been approved by the Board, but I don't recall, and I don't --
42 I haven't heard anything kind of since then. But there have been some initial
43 conversations with the communities and it kind of went away.



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1 Mary Bradford,
2 Are you talking about the area where there's proposed for a community baseball field;
3 that one?

4
5 President Knapp,
6 That was one of the things that had been discussed. I just didn't know if we actually
7 went through the acquisition of the parcel.

8
9 Mary Bradford,
10 We can bring you an update on where that is precisely. Not a problem.

11
12 President Knapp,
13 That would be great. I don't see any other comments. I thank you -- thank you for your
14 efforts in Parks, and I appreciate your phone call over the weekend, Mary, as it related
15 to the large festival that Little Bennett -- not Little Bennett, it was -- .

16
17 Mary Bradford,
18 Black Hill.

19
20 President Knapp,
21 Black Hill.

22
23 Mary Bradford,
24 Always want to keep you informed.

25
26 President Knapp,
27 I appreciate that. And it's good to see that our Parks are so full that we're actually
28 parking on the roads outside.

29
30 Mary Bradford,
31 We had to close the park it was so popular on Sunday. It was quite an event.

32
33 President Knapp,
34 Thank you very much. All right, I see no further questions. Thank you for your
35 presentation, and we'll see you back here in a week or two.

36
37 Mary Bradford,
38 Thank you.

39
40 Royce Hanson,
41 Mr. President, I'd like now to turn the presentation over to Rollin Stanley, who is our new
42 Planning Director. Although the Council had an opportunity to meet him very briefly,
43 he's now been here for two months and two days -- four days, I think, and has
44 accomplished about a year's worth of work. So I'd like to give him an opportunity to tell



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1 the Council what he's thinking about at this point; what he and the staff have been
2 working on in terms of changes and opportunities in the Planning Department. Rollin?

3
4 Rollin Stanley,

5 Good afternoon and thank you. For the record, Rollin Stanley, Director of Planning. I'll
6 be joined for a couple of slides by two of the senior staff members, so we'll pass the
7 wand as we move on. Okay, first things we'll be talking about today very briefly are both
8 the vision of the department and what we're doing, measures that we're working on to
9 advance our mandate, and we'll be addressing, obviously, the work program, which is of
10 particular interest. First of all I want to talk about the vision. It's about strategic growth,
11 protecting our resources, and creating quality of place. And the last one really leads into
12 what I think our mission statement is, is creating quality of place. And we'll get into that
13 as we move along. Our goals to implement the vision are pretty simple. It's about
14 innovation, quality spaces, quality places, and connectivity. As the Chairman points out,
15 it about the connectivity between the built environment and the natural environment,
16 and what that interfaces like. Our objectives to implement those goals address
17 accountability in everything we do; knowledge both within the department and within the
18 community; and creating partnerships, as in this case in this proposed condominium in
19 Bethesda where we're working with the urban group down there to get an arts group in
20 the ground floor to create a better use at the grade, and leads back to all our goals
21 we're talking about. In the past six months what have we delivered? The Master Plan
22 assessment, which I think is before you today, you'll hear a little bit more about today.
23 The Forest Conservation Law, the Growth Policy support, Twin Brook Plan and ZTA,
24 the I-270 corridor study -- I guess you didn't get to yesterday; the infill housing study,
25 the tracking report on TDR's, the housing inventory; and we've also been staffing up. So
26 since last year when we were here in the previous budget discussion, 30 staff have
27 been hired. And I'm pleased to say that the staff -- and this predates me -- 43% of the
28 new hires represent minorities. With respect to the accountability, this is the current
29 situation with the application tracking, I'm pleased to say that the number of 245, which
30 appears in your report, is a result of February; that number is down to 190. One thing
31 that's important to remember of the 190, that's also applications we've just got in the
32 last two months, which obviously wouldn't have been completed by now. There's also
33 20 or 30 applications there we've sent letters out to people saying, okay you've done
34 nothing with these for over a year. You better tell us if you want to continue with these
35 applications or we're going to close them. And it also relates back to issues about
36 getting things from various people to make the application proceed. That's letters from
37 other agencies, input from other folks. I'd like to pass on for the next two slides to Gwen
38 to go over the Master Plan assessment.

39
40 Gwen Wright,

41 Thanks. And for the record, Gwen Wright, Chief of Countywide Planning. We did brief
42 the PHED Committee on our Master Plan reassessment program yesterday. And the
43 basic message that think we want to get across is that we really have heard the Council
44 mandate that you would like master plans to be done in a way that's more timely that in



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1 a way that is more nimble -- to use Councilmember Floreen's term. And in a way that
2 will really have good, clear content that is readable, useable and implement-able. And to
3 that end, we are talking about adding a couple of different kinds of master plans to our
4 tool kit, small area or neighborhood plans, and also the limited master plan
5 amendments. That was something we had planned to initiate in Fiscal Year 09, and
6 we've actually initiated that in this fiscal year, with the limited master plan amendment in
7 the Wheaton Central Business District. We are looking, again, at nine major
8 recommendations that will allow us to create a process that is accountable and that has
9 good quality of master plans, and that clearly has implement-able changes. And I'm just
10 going to very briefly mention the nine ideas. One, that I already mentioned, are the idea
11 of these small area R neighborhood plans. The next is coming up with a way to really
12 standardized our -- both our content of plans and our process. And we do have
13 underway right now an effort with our staff to develop a process template so that we
14 aren't reinventing the wheel every time we start a master plan, and the folks will
15 understand what the clear steps are. And it will be also clearer for our constituents, for
16 our communities who are involved in the planning process. Through these efforts we
17 hope to shorten the timeframe for master plans. We think that based on all of the work
18 we did looking at best practices in other communities around the country that these
19 smaller area plans should take no more than 18 to 24 months, including the Council
20 review period. One way we also would like to implement that is by working very closely
21 with the Executive Branch so that the existing legally mandated 60-day Executive
22 review period can really be condensed and a lot of the work that's done during that can
23 happen during the master plan development process so that there's a much shorter
24 review period. We also are looking -- although I know that we had a good discussion
25 with the PHED Committee about this -- about the issue of the staff draft and whether
26 there's some way to consolidate that so that we can, again, streamline our process,
27 save time, while still maintaining the staff's independent judgment, and clearly good
28 technical recommendations. We're looking at reorganization within the department that
29 would allow us to have larger planning teams that will be able to put enough resources
30 into a master plan to get them done in a more timely way, and that will really bring
31 divisions together to work in ways that are not going to be perhaps, you know, stove-
32 piped as we've had in the past, but to really create teams that will be able to have both
33 the resources and the expertise to move plans forward efficiently. We want to also work
34 to that end to enhance our staff's skills. We're talking about a number of opportunities
35 for cross training, but we also really want the staff, who are doing master plans, to think
36 of themselves as project managers. Through out program budgeting, we want them to
37 understand what the resources are they have from each division within the organization,
38 what the budget is for this plan, and what the very clear deadlines and timelines are so
39 that they can be held accountable and can also really act as project managers for
40 master plans. We also want to have a much, much closer coordination in relationship
41 with the folks in the Executive Branch who implement master plans because we truly
42 believe that it is essential to only create plans that we can build and that are implement-
43 able and to increase those efforts. I think we've put a lot of these efforts into place. We
44 are working on, as I mentioned, some of these content and process improvements even



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1 as we speak. And we will continue to take the advice of the PHED Committee and look
2 at -- look at how our master plan process, again, can be streamlined with the idea of 18
3 to 24 months for these smaller area plans.

4
5 Rollin Stanley,

6 Okay, thank you. I'd like to just talk a bit now about some of the current efforts with
7 master plans, and I'll focus on the Gaithersburg West as well as the White Flint effort,
8 which in the last two months we've really put the push on through the formation of
9 broad-based teams and partnerships with the community who are advocating certain
10 things. And the things we're looking for in these efforts are definition, predictability,
11 phasing and partnerships. With respect to the goals of innovation and accountability as
12 an objective, we're looking at economic projections. What will these things generate in
13 revenues? To help us understand what these ask is of landowners in developing their
14 property. What are we going to ask them to help us with; what can we help them with;
15 and how does that cost-sharing and phasing occur? And we have a tool that we've been
16 using -- the resolution is a little poor here, but it's called the Community Vis, which helps
17 us model up sites, which you will see in a minute, and then generate expectations of
18 both parking -- this is tax revenues that would be generated depending on the
19 breakdown of what the spaces are between residential, commercial and retail; those
20 sorts of things. So we're modeling it to look at potential outcomes. And we're looking in
21 this process to create standard product with measurable deliverables; 3D massing to
22 help visualize what's resulting in it; timelines which includes the phasing; who is
23 responsible for what; and it factors in transportation as well. So with respect to the
24 quality and knowledge goals and objectives, we're looking, as I said, predictability,
25 defining what the benefits are we are looking for and the phasing, so we can test
26 options with the modeling about different FAR ratios to see what's being generated by
27 those in terms of the built form as well as all the other things I just spoke about. It's
28 relationship to the public realm. Capacities for roads, servicing, et cetera, and design,
29 which I'll get into in a minute. With respect to connectivity and partnerships and what
30 these things can do, we're looking that economic linkages that I talked about with
31 respect to the infrastructure and the phasing. We can't plan it if we can't build it. And
32 that's what this is leading towards. And the sustainability aspects for it; will it pay for
33 itself over time, as well as the networks that are created in it. And that goes very broad.
34 It's not just about transportation. For example, with the Gaithersburg West people,
35 we've asked the question about fiber optics and other technologies that connect that
36 area to the broader community as a whole, and we all get engaged through it. One
37 other aspect of these two efforts is to look at what infrastructure improvements can be
38 made, not just to accommodate any new growth, but to make it better for the growth
39 that's there now. And one of the things going to be facing areas like ours as time goes
40 on is the need to replace infrastructure. And the density levels that we have, can they
41 afford -- the cost of replacement certainly in older suburban communities, the costs are
42 quite extreme and the existing densities can't pay for it. The next step on these
43 programs is to look at the continued engagement with the stakeholders in the
44 community; information sharing between -- we can't generate all the resources



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1 ourselves so we're asking them to generate revenues -- sorry -- information for us.
2 Benefits and phasing I've talked about. Massing and density, the picture at the right is
3 something that I worked on in a different community where when you're looking at an
4 area that you're redeveloping, you have to establish baselines with respect to your
5 design about what you want there. And that's what I'll get to in a moment when it gets
6 into the zoning ordinance. And drafting and of course implementation. Now I'd like to
7 talk to you about the zoning review that we've initiated in-house to begin with. It's about
8 three big things: taking stock of what's there, creating predictability both in the process
9 and in what gets regulated, and in the form of implementation zoning is only as good as
10 its implementation. So for example with rationalizing what's there. We've got a hundred
11 and some-odd zones which really creates questions. Less is more. Form zoning, I know
12 you've had a lot about form zoning. These for example are something I worked on in
13 Toronto on a small island community where we were trying to regulate a certain aspect
14 of the built form. Form zoning can only achieve so much. And it's a lot easier in a brown
15 field. It's a lot easier for high-rise buildings than it is for infill housing. But it can work,
16 and we'll explore that. Technology, I'll get a bit into that. We need to use our technology
17 more with respect to the zoning. And so for example one of the things we're doing right
18 now is looking at how many districts we have and how many zones. A district is a use. A
19 zone is a standard. And it pays to look at how you relate those two with respect to your
20 zoning ordinance. We want to make it understandable. We have to record the changes.
21 Keep track of what we're changing so people know how. And with respect to staffing,
22 the chairman mentioned earlier that the development review section is providing staffing
23 support for that effort now. With respect to creating consistency, ease of use and
24 acceptance, a good example, of course, is the zoning maps. They're currently done in
25 Auto CAD. Well I don't know of anybody else that does those in Auto CAD. It's time they
26 were done in GIS. They are electronic. You can call them up online. You can look at
27 them. You don't have to come in and flip a page of a big book. And that has implications
28 for the whole administration of the document. And so we're looking at implementation,
29 best practices, and we'll be methodical in this approach. With respect to making it
30 connected; what's the connections to master plans. We put heights in master plans. We
31 have to explore whether that's the best way to do those things or not. How do we
32 maintain the zoning ordinance is also very much speaks to the process of it. Using the
33 internet so that users can gain access which help us get internal buy-in as well as
34 through the stakeholders, the people who use it, and with respect to clarity. Our next
35 steps, we're doing discovery. We're going through and seeing where we stand. We're
36 engaging stakeholders to find out what their thoughts are. And we're going to produce a
37 diagnostic report by the time of the next semiannual. But inventories all those things and
38 talks about the directions we're heading in. It's also about engaging. So we're looking to
39 engage those communities now to find out their thoughts. And we'll also be able to tell
40 in fall of the format. I want to talk a bit about green land use. We have three major
41 efforts underway in terms of environment and energy, quality of life indicators, and
42 water resources. We're focused on land use and transportation and its connections to
43 those elements. That's what our focus is. We will work collaboratively with the other
44 departments to get our information into them to the people who implement so we can do



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1 those things. One of the big bonuses in this effort is it will help reduce the master plan
2 process time because we don't have to reinvent the wheel every time we do a master
3 plan. We'll have a general plan element that deals with these issues. Turning the page
4 to technology, I'd like to pass it over to Karl Moritz.

5
6 Karl Moritz,

7 Okay, thank you. For the record, Karl Moritz with the Research and Technology Center.
8 I think it's been pretty clear from you and the Planning Board that you have high
9 expectations that we're going to use the technology investments that you've already
10 made, and become one of the leaders in using technology in planning. And we do have
11 a lot more to do. But I want to talk about some things that we've accomplished in the
12 past six months. And then also I'm going to highlight a bit about how we've tried to keep
13 cost to a minimum as we do this. The first thing I want to mention is, you know, planning
14 depends on outreach, and we're always looking for other ways to engage the
15 community. This is a project that you funded last year, and last week we tested it. It's
16 video broadcasting of Planning Board meetings. This is now going to be every week. It
17 will be online for anyone who wants to watch the Planning Board in place. The next step
18 is going to be to let the public know that the service exists, and that's what we're doing
19 this week. The system that we -- yes.

20
21 Royce Hanson,

22 I was introduced the other day, incidentally, that the Board can be seen live once a
23 week. And I thought for us to be live once a week was pretty good.

24
25 Karl Moritz,

26 That's good. Not only is it -- yeah. Not only is it available live, but it will be available as
27 archives the next day. The system that we've chosen is very user friendly. The city of
28 Takoma Park uses it and so does Alexandria. Among the ways that we reduce cost to
29 get this accomplished is that we're using the old equipment that the cable TV office
30 gave to us. Second, the Planning Board clerks, who are always at the Planning Board
31 meetings anyway, are going to be operating the cameras, which we can also use to
32 broadcast other events and to do video conferencing. The next one is one of the
33 promises of technology is that we're going to empower individuals to use -- give them
34 tools and information to make decisions on their own. And in support of that we've just
35 released something we're calling MC Atlas, which is GIS online that anyone can use.
36 MC Atlas provides staff and the public with a pretty powerful GIS tool that they can
37 access from anywhere using their browser. One of the things that we did with this is
38 actually use the out-of-the-box functionality that came with the most recent addition of
39 this software, Arc GIS, and this has saved a lot of money in not having to do any custom
40 programming. In addition to this project, we are embarking on a GIS strategic plan. It is
41 interagency. It's all of us working together to not only improve how we do the operations
42 of the GIS but also to find new ways to expand the use of GIS in decision making
43 throughout county government. The last thing I want to mention, Community VIS is the
44 tool that Rollin was just demonstrating. That is actually a very inexpensive tool that is



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1 funded by a foundation, but not only is it inexpensive but it's very powerful. And it gives
2 us the opportunity to regularize the use of data in analysis which is part of what the
3 master plan assessment is about. The last thing that I want to mention is one of the
4 ways that we use technology to create connections among our partner agencies is by
5 sharing data. And the GIS system is what we used as the basis for our new housing
6 inventory, which is something that we really should have done a long time, but it's
7 complete. And it's a central location for a lot of the housing data that's collected by
8 DHCA, HOC and other agencies. So there's the existing housing data, MPDU's, other
9 price-controlled housing units, foreclosures. A lot of things are coming together in this
10 platform so that everybody can use it to do analytical work. One thing we can do, for
11 example, is find pockets of naturally occurring affordable housing, but then analyze why
12 has it remained affordable. Data actually from this project is being used in the county
13 stat program. And it's [inaudible].

14
15 Rollin Stanley,

16 On to the next subject about accountability. Over the next six months, and what we'll
17 report back on when we come back in the fall, is we expect to deliver the final design for
18 Silver Place, provide the sustainability indicators, the housing policy element, the
19 Georgia Avenue Corridor study, enforcement rules looking at what [inaudible] workforce
20 regulatory system, Germantown, Twin Brook and TDR's. Over the next six months we'll
21 near completion on Gaithersburg West, the zoning diagnostic I mentioned, White Flint,
22 the ICC bikeway, and some strategizing with the bus rapid transit, potential routes, et
23 cetera. Ongoing will be the Forest Conservation Support, the green infrastructure plan,
24 reorganization of the department, the Growth Policy, White Flint II, tracking the Wheaton
25 Master Plan, and further work on the zoning. For the 2009 budget, we've been looking
26 at the impact of the exact recommendations, and we're looking at savings both
27 operationally in terms of staff resources. It's important to remember that in our planning
28 function we don't make a lot of things that you can sell. However, so as a result we have
29 about 90% budget is staff. So we're looking at a nondiscretionary funding savings in all
30 areas such as taking away the \$250,000 we proposed for the zoning review, outside
31 work, things like that to try and make our budget targets. We're also doing job-sharing.
32 I've already mentioned the start of that process with the development review staff
33 helping out with the zoning review. We're looking at mixing that function also with the
34 community-based planning staff to take on different tasks. Processes, we're looking at
35 those now. And we're also looking at ways to do revenue. And Karl talked a bit about
36 expanding the GIS potential to help us draw in some revenues sources. And the last
37 three slides I just want to talk a little more theoretically because my first opinion --
38 appearance before you folks, about the future. One thing we must do is show
39 alternatives in our master plans about what we can achieve. And I've always loved this
40 slide. It evolves from something that happened in Amsterdam. This isn't the one. But
41 that many cars, that many people equals one bus. That many people equals that many
42 bikes that many people. And this is an important slide as we think about how the County
43 can grow. And it's not just with transit, it's with everything. It's with our infrastructure
44 below the ground, et cetera. It's very, very critical. And the next census that will come



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1 out in 2011 will help reinforce this. With respect to density, these are two pictures I took
2 in Boston. Those projects are both the same FAR. Density occurs in different ways. And
3 density is not a thing to be afraid of, it's how you do it. And so a lot of what we're going
4 to talk about in the future is how you build out and design to accommodate density in
5 the best way to enhance the public realm. And the public realm isn't just what you lock
6 on, it's what you see as well. So the public realm also includes the face of the building.
7 And that's going to be important, and we'll explore that with you in terms of design
8 guidelines, and what goes into a zoning ordinance to achieve what we want to achieve
9 at the end of the day when it's built out. And in some of these instances, as you know,
10 that's a long timeframe. And the Chairman has commented that we -- and we've
11 discussed with the Chairman, about reviewing those periodically every six or seven
12 years to make sure we're on target. And lastly, design, again, whether it's Twin Brook or
13 two projects I worked on -- a project I worked on in Toronto where often what happens
14 is you got to do something before you get something. And in this case in Toronto we
15 intensified an old industrial area where they used to make washing machines, with
16 condominiums -- mid-rise condominiums. We didn't get the funds or the resources to
17 provide the transit into those areas until we built some of them. So the building was
18 there, more buildings were there, we ran the street cars through a little later on. And
19 what happens is you got to generate that revenue stream to get the resources to
20 achieve your vision. And that's the completion of the presentation.

21
22 President Knapp,
23 Thank you very much.

24
25 Royce Hanson,
26 So for any colleagues of mine what was [inaudible] here I'd be happy to have your
27 questions.

28
29 President Knapp,
30 I don't see any. Oh, here they come. Councilmember Elrich.

31
32 Councilmember Elrich,
33 I think good use of technology, and I think it bodes well for what you're clearly capable
34 of doing with technology. And it's a long time coming. And it's nice to see it arriving, so I
35 want to commend you on that. I would just like you to maybe elaborate a little bit more
36 on the bus traffic transit stuff. I mean, I am very interested in it. I started doing work on it
37 when we were discussing the Growth Policy. I don't see any way out of our
38 transportation box without a decision not just to enhance transit, but to enhance it in the
39 specific ways that have the intensity of delivering the number of people from places and
40 to places that are both, you know, the target areas for residences and the target areas
41 for jobs. And I know of no other way in large portions of the county where we're going to
42 be able to do that on the road network. No one's double decking Wisconsin Avenue or
43 Connecticut Avenue or Georgia Avenue. So short of, you know, tearing down
44 neighborhoods and bulldozing through roads, which no one will ever let us do, we need



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1 another way of getting there. And I think Metro has signaled pretty clearly. I know the
2 new Chairman, Mr. Zimmerman, has said that he thinks Metro's expansion is going to
3 be based on expansion of bus traffic transit not on the expansion of every rail. I know
4 that your work in Saint Louis involved trying to persuade the Mayor there in your last act
5 to look at bus traffic transit, so I'm really looking forward to where you think this can go.
6 And if you have any illuminating comments on it that would be good.

7
8 Rollin Stanley,

9 It's critical. One mile of subway is the same cost as ten mile of street car, which is the
10 same cost as a lot of miles of bus rapid transit. And my last slide, the one that's still
11 there; when you think about the services of transportation that you can bring into a
12 community as it emerges and you don't have the funding for a light rail, you can afford
13 bus rapid transit. And people shouldn't think of bus rapid transit as second class. It's
14 not. And unfortunately in this country it's seen as such. I can show lots of picture. The
15 Mayor and I were actually -- of Saint Louis -- were in Leon last year with the
16 Ambassador of France, pushing that whole technology issue to try and get it into the
17 states. And they've done a fabulous job with a mode of transport, including trolley
18 buses. And they can also be electrified; they can be gas-powered. So they're energy
19 efficient. They're cost efficient. And they move almost as many people per hour as a
20 street car, which is the most efficient form of moving people.

21
22 Councilmember Elrich,

23 So where do you see things going in terms of your project or that we'll have a chance to
24 interact with?

25
26 Rollin Stanley,

27 The first thing you'll see is in the Georgia Avenue study looking at the road width and
28 the capability to get bus rapid transit in that corridor. It's also going to be part of the
29 White Flint plan. When we're looking at the inner-city transit corridor in Gaithersburg
30 West and its alignment is that first a bus rapid transit route as it builds out. These are all
31 options that we're exploring. And we're actually working with in the John Hopkins case,
32 we're working the proponents who -- to actually cost out those options in terms of the
33 altered alignments and the different types of service levels. And it's pretty competitive.
34 Although it does show some inexperience with folks in the area with bus rapid transit
35 because they're really inflating the maintenance costs and saying it's as much as a
36 street car, which it's not.

37
38 President Knapp,

39 Councilmember Berliner.

40
41 Councilmember Berliner,

42 Variation on the theme. I appreciate, one, this is first time I've heard your presentation
43 and I want to commend you. I thought it was a very impressive presentation, and your
44 background is such that I'm very much looking forward to working with you and looking



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1 forward to the changes that you contemplate internally to make the operation more
2 efficient. But the vision that you have outlined is certainly a vision that I share. I want to
3 reinforce my own personal commitment to bus rapid transit as an element. I don't
4 believe that some people have posed that as an alternative, for example, to the Purple
5 Line. I don't perceive that it is. I believe we're going to need -- we're going to need light
6 rail, we're going to need bus rapid transit, we're going to need all of it. And the sooner
7 that we get to the next generation of bus transportation in this County the better off we
8 will be. And we need the vision. Councilmember Elrich has done yeoman work with
9 respect to this and very detailed work on particular routes. But from my perspective
10 given the investment that is going to be needed with respect to this, we need a vision
11 that we can share with our constituents that say this is worth fighting for, folks, because
12 if you want to have the type of development that many people want for our community,
13 we have to be able to move people. And this is the only alternative available to us. But
14 we need to see it. We need to see the pictures that you suggest with respect to why it
15 isn't a second class. I don't believe it's a second class mode of transportation. What we
16 need to break through the consciousness that envelops that issue so that people feel
17 like they can get there, and they can get there quickly. So that my colleague doesn't
18 require 90 minutes to get from her home to this office and compare that to a 20-minute
19 drive, because if that's the trade off it isn't going to happen. But I really commend you
20 and look forward to working in a collaborative manner with you. I'm now on the
21 transportation infrastructure, energy and environment committee -- can't we change
22 that, Mr. President -- and look forward to working with you and with the PHED
23 Committee with respect to coming up with that vision that we can share across the
24 board. So I'm very excited about it and look forward to your work. I also appreciate your
25 work on the energy environment piece and the careful way in which you talked about
26 that piece being directly related to your core mission and not going beyond that. That
27 this is what land use and transportation is all about, and that it is an integral part of what
28 you have been tasked to do, and that that's what you'll be doing for us.

29
30 Rollin Stanley,

31 Well thank you very much. I share everything you said. And I wish some of your
32 counterparts in places I've worked in the past were as enlightened as you as that.

33
34 Councilmember Berliner,

35 It worked for me.

36
37 Rollin Stanley,

38 And I didn't say where in the past.

39
40 Councilmember Trachtenberg,

41 [Inaudible] instincts.

42
43 President Knapp,



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1 He's trying to -- he knows the budget discussion isn't going to be quite so favorable, so
2 he's trying to set that up now. Councilmember Ervin.

3
4 Councilmember Ervin,

5 Thank you very much. My friend and colleague, Mr. Elrich, is not the only one
6 concerned about bus rapid transit, nor -- not the only one who has been working in this
7 area. I've taking the bus, and I was saying earlier today that my bus commute is three
8 times, almost, what my car commute is. And when I get on the bus I look around me
9 and I don't -- I see a certain type of person who rides the bus. They're working class.
10 They're either immigrant or they're people of color. The times that I've been riding the
11 bus, I've seen sort of middle-class-looking white people on the bus. So there is a
12 concept out there -- a misconception that bus patrons look a certain way. And I think
13 that as we continue these conversations about bus rapid transit, trolleys, you know,
14 heavy rail, all of that requires that the Park and Planning Commission continue in its
15 good work, I think, in terms of really bringing in the folks who are actually the numbers
16 of the ridership -- ridership numbers that we're seeing for the Purple Line are
17 unbelievable. And those same people who are riding the buses are the same people
18 who are going to on the Purple Line, but those are not the people we see speaking to us
19 as policymakers in all of these different sort of committee structures that we've set up
20 around the County. I compliment you on the work that you're doing, and I said to Karl
21 yesterday that the technology piece is very critical for those folks who can't come to
22 meetings because they're working two or three jobs a day or however they make their
23 living in this County. I think it's really, really important. And I compliment you too for the
24 presentation. I have had a conversation with you before coming from a city like Saint
25 Louis this is not anything new to you. And so I'm very excited to have you here,
26 because there is a lot that we can learn from you, and someone who has come from a
27 city of great diversity, like Saint Louis is, I think it will be very helpful as we continue on.

28
29 Rollin Stanley,

30 You've raised a really fascinating point. And when you look at the demographics of this
31 County over the last 20 years and how they've changed, if we're ever going to make the
32 case for better transit -- bus rapid transit it's now. Because the people you're describing
33 are the people who are growing in numbers who we have to embrace and engage and
34 give them ways to get around. And now is the time to do it.

35
36 President Knapp,

37 Councilmember Floreen.

38
39 Councilmember Floreen,

40 Thanks. I've got a number of questions. So if you can bear with me. We talked a lot
41 about things yesterday with respect to the master plan process, but you weren't with us,
42 Rollin, so.

43
44 Rollin Stanley,



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1 I have an excuse if you'd like to hear it.

2
3 Councilmember Floreen,
4 I'm sure you have a good one. And that's fine. So I may bore -- .

5
6 President Knapp,
7 [Inaudible] doctor.

8
9 Councilmember Floreen,
10 Good. But I did enjoy your presentation. And I want you to feel -- and I'm just speaking
11 for myself here -- empowered to try out all new ideas on us. I think we've been stuck in
12 a box for 30 years, and it was a good box while it lasted. But I don't think it works
13 anymore. And so I would encourage you to push us hard to think innovatively about
14 things, and to devise new mechanisms to solve the problems that we face. Because we
15 are torturing ourselves with the mechanisms that we have in place right now, if you ask
16 me. So I would urge you to be bold and brash and crazy, and maybe we might get
17 something done. With that, one of the challenges is that you have a couple of existing
18 operations in place you're stuck with. One of which is the county government. And I just
19 have to note throughout you've got a lot of proposals in here. You say with respect to
20 the White Flint plan that you're delaying delivering of it to provide more time for analysis,
21 okay, and infrastructure financing concepts. And I just have to say we need to have the
22 County at those tables on this issue. As you know in other sectors we're struggling with
23 development district initiatives that were contained in master plans many years ago, but
24 we have a division in functional responsibility here. And I think we're going to have to
25 talk about how we get that all to work. I don't think we have figured that out yet. But we
26 have a County Department of Economic Development, who I would expect to be part of
27 economic development initiatives, is something I will say whenever we talk about the I-
28 270/355 corridor. We have an Office of Management and Budget and Finance to talk to
29 when we're talking about infrastructure plans. The developers are just great people and
30 whatever, but they're not the ones who have to figure out how to put this stuff in place.
31 They have grand ideas but they're not in charge of getting it done. And I regret to inform
32 you that neither are you. It's us and the County. So that's a problem. We also have a
33 Department of Environmental Protection, and doing a lot of great things just getting with
34 a new director -- Bob is in the back and listening intently. And I think we have to be clear
35 about who is doing what. And that would apply to a couple of things you've got on your
36 plate. The sustainability stuff, we're actually in the next week, two weeks creating sort of
37 a sustainability working group within the County to look at those kinds of things. DEP I
38 think is heading it; right, Bob? And so how you all work with that and your energy and
39 environment planning here, I'm honestly not clear about. Because I know you come
40 from an environment where you're not stuck with separate groups like Planning and an
41 Executive function. But we do have that here, and it makes it more challenging no
42 question. But we don't want to be in the position of either negotiating departmental
43 disagreements or departmental turf issues even in the best -- with the best of will. So I



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1 really think we're going to need to talk about how these things will be resolved. And I
2 just don't know at this stage.

3
4 Royce Hanson,

5 We are working with the Executive Branch on both of those issues. And I think we either
6 already have or are very close to having worked out an agreement as to who is doing
7 what in each of these areas. Our focus is on the -- on the traditional -- more traditional
8 planning aspects of this dealing with the, as Rollin said, the land use and transportation
9 aspects of it. And I think DEP and the Executive Branch is focusing on many of the
10 operational and implementation questions that are involved. Similarly, on the indicators,
11 we have worked very closely with the Executive Branch there. We agreed, I think, when
12 we were talking with the Council about this during the budget period that we would
13 come in with a single report to you. And I think our staffs have agreed on, again, on
14 who's doing what in this aspect.

15
16 Councilmember Floreen,

17 Yeah, well, that is the kind of thing I'm very concerned about. It is a limited budget year.

18
19 Royce Hanson,

20 Let me just say.

21
22 Councilmember Floreen,

23 And we can't -- I have to say I think we have to be careful about doing everything to the
24 hilt when we can do things pretty well. And I'll just give you an example, and this is to
25 Rollin. Years ago I asked for a study on -- as part of the Growth Policy on intersection. I
26 forget how I put it, but it was what I thought was a simple question for a relatively short
27 report. And I think I got a 250-page thesis. Now a probably very good and very valid and
28 well thought out and all that, but I think we could have done -- achieved a similar result
29 differently. And I think, I at least, would like you to think about that as we task you all --
30 as we all ask you to do certain things; do we always have to have the gold-plated
31 response. Obviously you are all gold and we respect the depth of your contribution and
32 knowledge and all that sort of thing, but maybe there are ways that we can do business
33 a little more efficiently. A question I have is with -- this is an issue that has been
34 simmering for some years. And I'm not sure -- I didn't see it on your list of thinking here,
35 which is there is an issue in the regulatory environment with respect to the lead agency.
36 Again, jurisdictional issue between you guys and everybody else, which is who's in
37 charge. Who makes the call on the road? Who makes the call in the sewer? Who
38 resolves the environmental dispute when it's between the County and your guys? I
39 know you have processes in place for this. We talked about this some time ago with
40 respect to the lead -- resolving a lead agency issue. And I wanted to draw your attention
41 to that, because I do think in the regulatory environment that has been a long simmering
42 concern. We have a variety of other projects going on with respect to the road code,
43 with respect to maybe this environmental stuff, which may resolve some of this. But
44 again the issue that we hear constantly from the public is we don't know who's in charge



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1 of this issue. And so I would ask you to put that on your list of things to get advice from
2 and to help us sort through it. Housing policy, that's another good area; who's in charge.
3 You've got a lot of work that you're doing here it seems. Data -- you're the data guys,
4 but the solution guys we have a couple of other agencies in that department. And I
5 would like to make sure that they are actively involved in the implementation ideas that
6 you appear to be assuming responsibility for in this plan. There is an unending series of
7 reports on housing needs. There is an unending series of proposals. And there's very
8 little action. And I just draw your attention to that fact. And I just share with you my
9 desire that we focus on the action part. We have reports. We have policies. You name
10 it, we're all there. But we don't do it. So I would ask you to keep an eye on that for us.
11 I'm also done, I think. Oh, in the environmental front, the climate change stuff and all, I
12 was looking at the countywide water resources program element on your plan, page 28.
13 In other environments down at the council governments I've been told that there is
14 some -- people are starting to worry about our long-term access to water resources.
15 That is identified here to a certain degree. I would want to say that I've heard from some
16 folks that we should look at using the quarry here for a reservoir. I don't know if that's a
17 good idea. I don't know if it's a bad idea. I believe it has been raised before. I would ask
18 that that be thought about. Maybe you raised it?

19
20 Royce Hanson,

21 No, actually, the quarry issue was raised when we developed the Little Seneca Lake.
22 One of the problems with the quarry is that, I believe, and I'm relying on my recollection
23 here because I was co-chair of the interagency committee with Bob McNeerey who was
24 then WSSC on the creation of Little Seneca. And we looked at the quarry at that time,
25 but I think that some of the mineral content there is not particularly helpful.

26
27 Councilmember Floreen,

28 I don't doubt that there's a problem. There's always a problem, and maybe that's to big
29 a problem. I don't know. But I wanted to draw your attention to that, because I've heard
30 that from a couple of sources. And as we look at -- .

31
32 Royce Hanson,

33 It's a big hole.

34
35 Councilmember Floreen,

36 Yeah, it's a big hole, and we have a lot of people who need water. So that's the
37 problem. Is it necessary to look at that to solve it in the -- that water quality issue? I think
38 that's really something that should be mentioned.

39
40 Royce Hanson,

41 The water resources plan is looking at supply issues.

42
43 Councilmember Floreen,



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1 That stuff, yeah. Good. Good. Again, I do read this stuff. So I noticed that you're doing a
2 green space plan for Silver Spring. That was news to me. Is that a Master Plan
3 amendment?

4
5 Rollin Stanley,

6 No, the green space plan is looking at -- and I may actually get Glen to come up and
7 provide the details because it predates me. But it's looking at providing alternative
8 spaces for providing green space, one of which we had a bit of a discussion with us
9 previously about -- .

10
11 Councilmember Floreen,
12 Not on roofs, or some roofs.

13
14 Rollin Stanley,
15 Potentially on top of a garage -- .

16
17 Councilmember Floreen,
18 Under certain circumstances.

19
20 Rollin Stanley,
21 It's actually a garage.

22
23 Councilmember Floreen,
24 Sometimes -- that sort of thing.

25
26 Rollin Stanley,
27 And we went over the emerging material the other day. It's actually really very, very,
28 very good. I was quite pleased with the staff's efforts. But I will ask Glen to provide the
29 background.

30
31 Glen Kregar,
32 Yeah, this is, for the record, Glen Kregar, Community-based Planning. This is not a
33 Master Plan, although -- .

34
35 Councilmember Floreen,
36 Well, I couldn't figure out what it was.

37
38 Glen Kregar,
39 Well it's a study -- .

40
41 Councilmember Floreen,
42 A study.

43
44 Glen Kregar,



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1 Depending on the reception it gets and how strongly people feel about the
2 recommendations, it could lead to a Master Plan amendment, but we haven't gotten to
3 that point yet. There was a considerable discussion about a year ago about having a
4 large green space somewhere in Silver Spring. There was a big battle about the so-
5 called turf area and whether that should be green or it should hard-scaped. It's going to
6 be hard -- .

7
8 Councilmember Floreen,
9 Well, it was green. It's just not -- .

10
11 Glen Kregar,
12 It's artificially green.

13
14 Councilmember Floreen,
15 [Inaudible] to Elrich's [inaudible].

16
17 Glen Kregar,
18 That was a result of if it's going to hard-scaped. We also heard from the many residents
19 of South Silver Spring, and there are quite a few new residents of South Silver Spring,
20 about the lack of a green space for them and for their families. The people who are
21 moving into all these new units on the west side of Georgia Avenue find it very difficult
22 to get to Jessup Ware Park across Georgia Avenue.

23
24 Councilmember Floreen,
25 Okay, well, so it's a study.

26
27 Glen Kregar,
28 It's a study.

29
30 Councilmember Floreen,
31 I draw your attention to the Zoning Text Amendment we looked at yesterday in the
32 PHED Committee that provides for sort of the polling of public obligation to -- .

33
34 Glen Kregar,
35 Right. It's related.

36
37 Councilmember Floreen,
38 Invest in things of that nature. So maybe that can fit. And -- .

39
40 Rollin Stanley,
41 If I may add, that really exercises what Mary was speaking about earlier about urban
42 parks, this effort.

43
44 Councilmember Floreen,



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1 Yeah, okay. Sounds good. And I look forward to continued conservation with respect to
2 the form-base code idea. We talked about it yesterday. There are some interesting
3 ways to go about it, and I look forward to getting into it more detailed. Thanks.

4
5 President Knapp,
6 Council Vice President Andrews.

7
8 Vice President Andrews,
9 Thanks, President Knapp. Thank you very much for the presentation. I enjoyed it a lot
10 and very impressed and look forward to all the ideas I know you're going to be coming
11 forward with to the Council from the Board. I know that the White Flint plan is before the
12 -- being developed by the staff at this point, at least phase one of it. And my
13 understanding is that the plans are for a great deal of housing in the plan. What's the
14 latest number estimate? What's a rough estimate what you're looking at.

15
16 Rollin Stanley,
17 In terms of total number of units?

18
19 Vice President Andrews,
20 Um-huh.

21
22 Rollin Stanley,
23 What we're doing right now -- before I answer the question I want to give just a bit of
24 background. To do the modeling to do the assumptions on transportations, et cetera,
25 revenues, we've had to make assumptions about what the mix was. And we basically
26 used a 50/50 mix between residential, non-residential being commercial and retail. We
27 are modeling it up at different floret ratio totals, so the numbers go anywhere from
28 12,000 units up to I think 17,000 at a higher FAR focused along the Rockville Pike. This
29 is a very, very large area. And so what we're doing is we're looking at each block that
30 would emerge as the road network comes in. And then see how the density models up
31 in each individual block, and then evaluating its impacts from there.

32
33 Vice President Andrews,
34 Okay. We'll just use 15,000 as average there. I would like to see the Planning Board
35 push as much as possible to move from transit-oriented development at White Flint to
36 transit-only development at White Flint. I'd like to see us build the housing without
37 building parking to the greatest extent that we possibly can and still make it work. I think
38 we missed an opportunity at Shady Grove to push it as much as we could, and I think a
39 lot of the concern that people have about density is because they don't believe that
40 you're going to have an acceptable traffic impact from density wherever it happens to
41 be. But at metro stations if there's any place where we should be able to reduce to an
42 absolute minimum the amount of parking we provide it's at metro stations. And why
43 don't we provide incentives for free metro passes as long as you live there; free ride-on
44 passes; car sharing services to people to access when they need a car. But avoid



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1 building the parking, free up the space for green space or for community-serving uses.
2 What do you think is the envelope there? How far can we push that envelope at White
3 Flint?

4
5 Rollin Stanley,
6 You mean in terms of the number of units?

7
8 Vice President Andrews,
9 No, in terms of minimizing the parking.

10
11 Rollin Stanley,
12 Okay, parking. Well you'll love this then. In Toronto in a previous career where I actually
13 wrote the zoning ordinance, the parking requirements were as follows: for a bachelor
14 apartment .3; for a one-bedroom .5; for a two-bedroom or more .75. Then you added
15 them all up and you multiplied by .06 to get the visitor parking. We also had maximum.
16 There were minimums and maximums. And the maximums are pretty important. And
17 you've raised a really inter -- in what I add and actually thought of, so I appreciate this. If
18 you're building around a transit we should be looking at maximum [inaudible] parking.
19 And see we're doing Montgomery Plans and what the cameraman says to me, I don't
20 have a car because he -- I live in downtown Silver Spring and I walk to work. Across the
21 street at the gas station are two zip cars. And they're pretty nice cars by the way. One is
22 a mini Cooper. And the cameraman says to me, well my wife and I don't have a car, we
23 use a zip car. We use them in other states. I mean Saint Louis, which is very car-
24 dependent actually has a zip car now. And Enterprise Rent-a-Car is putting a push into
25 this field with green effect, and we have some connections to that company. So there
26 are other things we can do, and I think you're right on target and you've actually just
27 given me a really good idea. So I think we can push the envelope because the whole
28 intent at White Flint or Gaithersburg West is provide the opportunity like I have in
29 downtown Silver Spring where I don't actually have to get in my car. I thought I had a
30 car. It's now my wife's car. I never drive it. I never get in it.

31
32 Vice President Andrews,
33 Well I appreciate the response. And I think that there's no place that's more appropriate
34 to try this than a metro station, and an area that already has good transit service as
35 well, you know, bus and rail. I'm more skeptical that the same amount of density or
36 close to it can be achieved in Gaithersburg West and adequately served by transit, but
37 I'm open to hearing it.

38
39 Rollin Stanley,
40 We are not proposing quite the same amount.

41
42 Vice President Andrews,
43 No. No, but White Flint should be the ideal place to push this off of. You've got bus and
44 rail there now. Make it as pedestrian-friendly as possible and provide incentives for



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1 people to come without their cars. If you built parking garages, people will come with
2 their cars.

3
4 Royce Hanson,
5 I just want to gently remind the Council that one of the things that you did not
6 appropriate funds for is the parking study that can provide the justification for some of
7 those things.

8
9 Unidentified,
10 Or the money to modify the code, which is what we would have to do to change the
11 building requirements; we'd have to change the zoning [inaudible].

12
13 Vice President Andrews,
14 Well with the ingenuity that I see at the table, I'm confident that we'll still get some good
15 ideas. Thank you.

16
17 Rollin Stanley,
18 Thanks.

19
20 President Knapp,
21 Councilmember Leventhal.

22
23 Councilmember Leventhal,
24 Mr. Stanley, welcome; enjoyed your presentation.

25
26 Rollin Stanley,
27 Thank you.

28
29 Councilmember Leventhal,
30 Look forward to working with you. Commissioner Bryant, you're going to be enormously
31 difficult to replace. You've been a tremendous asset to the Commission and to the
32 County. You bring a great passion for communities. And you devote a lot of time and a
33 lot of heart to your work. So we're going to look forward to working with you for the
34 remaining months in your eight years of service on the Planning Commission; and I
35 can't imagine how we're going to replace you. And I've been doing some thinking about
36 it as I know all of my colleagues have. You've been a -- you've made a unique
37 contribution, and we appreciate your leadership.

38
39 Alison Bryant,
40 I really appreciate that. Those are very, very nice words. And that's why among the
41 eight of you, you are one of the eight that I have the most respect for.

42
43 Councilmember Leventhal,



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1 One of the eight, I am. You bet. I am among the top eight Councilmembers in this
2 County, and I'm honored to be one, I'll tell you.

3
4 Royce Hanson,
5 We're thinking of dipping Alison in bronze and just sitting him at the Board table.

6
7 Councilmember Leventhal,

8 That's a good lead into what I wanted to say. Because what the five Commissioners and
9 senior staff need to do is to weigh among the eight points of view, and eventually will fill
10 out the ninth seat; and of course we greatly miss our colleague, Marilyn, who probably
11 maybe at least a third to half of all this is in response to memos that she wrote. So that's
12 funny, but it's not funny. I mean, there's a great deal of workload generated by
13 individuals among the body. And one of the challenges that you have -- and I
14 sympathize with your challenge -- is to discern among the range of comments that you
15 hear today, and that you hear throughout the course of the year, what does the Council
16 as a body really want from you. And that's not an easy challenge. And there isn't an
17 easy answer. So I was wondering whether I would weigh in here, and then I thought I
18 probably should, particularly, Mr. Stanley, since you're relatively new and you haven't,
19 you know, you're beginning to figure this out of how, you know, when Phil Andrews, who
20 I enjoy working with so much and who is so able, suggests that we should have a new
21 type of zoning for a whole lot of units that aren't allowed to have parking spaces. And
22 my first reaction with a smile and with great respect for Mr. Andrews is that any
23 Councilmember who proposes that ought to be mandated to buy one of those units and
24 give up his car. And we'll see whether those who advocate that would be willing to live
25 under those constraints. I don't know. I don't know whether I would share that. If there
26 were -- I don't know whether I would share that as a policy goal. I think it would be an
27 interesting experiment. I'm not sure how the market would respond. So good ideas are
28 suggested, and Park and Planning has to sort of sort through and filter through the good
29 ideas, and then figure out among the many, many good ideas what makes the most
30 sense. And then the other thing I want to share, and this is a follow-up to our
31 conversation about the special appropriate, I do acknowledge the importance of
32 planning for continued high quality of life in Montgomery County. I do acknowledge that
33 we have a great history of careful, of managing the spaces that we do have, of
34 preserving the beautiful spaces, keeping this special place special, maintain assets like
35 Rock Creek Park, and preserving our agricultural reserve forever. And it takes
36 significant resources in our Planning Department to continue those goals that we've
37 maintained here in the County, and that we're a national exemplar. Not that the best in
38 the United States, but among the best in the United States, that we can point to
39 examples like those I've cited: excellent park land, an agricultural reserve, wedges and
40 corridors, transit-oriented development. We're not by any means unique in doing those
41 things, but we were ahead of the curve in many ways, and we're still looked at by many
42 other communities. We are in a budget crunch and we do need to prioritize. And so I
43 agree with much of what Councilmember Floreen said. We need to be very cautious
44 when we embark upon large initiatives like -- I'm just reading from one. Originally we



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1 proposed an environment and energy plan that would examine how Montgomery
2 County will meet our ongoing needs, environmental, economic and social, without
3 compromising the needs of future generations. That's a big task. I'd like to see, you
4 know, the Twin Brook Master Plan. I'd like to see us get a little more nitty-gritty and a
5 little more nuts and bolts, and maybe before we embark upon an overarching,
6 sweeping, gigantic, huge, you know, let's project everything that we might need for our
7 entire future, maybe we might scale down the vision a little bit, particularly in [inaudible]-
8 year budget times. And to follow up on what Ms. Floreen said, maybe we do want to
9 think through whether the charge that we're giving ourselves in Georgia Avenue in
10 Silver Spring conflicts or interferes or is redundant or is complementary to the work
11 being done at the Department of Housing and Community Affairs, or the Department of
12 Environmental Protection, or the Department of Permitting Services or the Department
13 of Public Works and Transportation, or some of these other agencies that you know,
14 with respect to housing policy, Program Element 4 on page 31, the County Executive
15 just launched a gigantic initiative on housing policy on Friday. How does that interact
16 with Park and Planning's sweeping world view of how we're going to remake our vision
17 in housing? I wonder sometimes whether we may end up tripping over ourselves. And
18 are we clear? And I agree with what Ms. Floreen said here. Are we clear on who should
19 be the lead agency? And where there is value in having multiple perspectives, are we
20 getting those perspectives in a way that is timely for consideration by this body. In the
21 case of forest conservation, we had -- we, the Council, you know, have just approved a
22 citizen advisory committee on forest conservation a couple of months after we got the
23 Forest Conservation Law recommendations from Park and Planning. Why was that?
24 How did that work? So we now have to forward Park and Planning's recommendations
25 to this advisory committee that we just appointed in order to bring these modes of
26 decision into sync with each other. Now some of that is our job because we get your
27 work plan, and we want to give you feedback, and you're getting feedback from me right
28 now about how these things ought to get plugged in with other efforts underway. As Ms.
29 Floreen said, we're going to appoint a sustainability working group, the environment and
30 energy plan ought to be in sync with that effort. The County Executive just launched a
31 gigantic initiative on affordable housing; how does that connect to what Park and
32 Planning is doing on housing policy? These are questions I'm not clear on what the
33 answers are to these things. And reluctantly, you know, there are high schools that we
34 would like to modernize right away; they're going to wait a year or two or more. There
35 are police recruits that we would like to bring onto the force right away; we may not
36 bring them on right away. We'd like to go to four-person staffing on fire engines right
37 away; we may not be able to do it right away. And so there are some of these wide-
38 reaching and slightly academic exercises that the Planning Department may want to
39 embark upon because we know there's a great about the environment and the future,
40 and all of these things are, you know, large. But we may also have to bring our vision
41 somewhat more into sync with what -- what is feasible and what is affordable. So I say
42 this -- I feel a little bad about the dialogue that occurred prior to launching into the work
43 plan. And I'm afraid that by not giving you the special appropriation that you asked for, I
44 know that morale at Park and Planning is, you know, an issue. I don't minimize it. It's a



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1 serious issue. And I don't want to, as one Councilmember, I don't want to convey to the
2 Planning Department that I don't care about planning. I do. I want to keep the things that
3 make Montgomery County special. I want to plan for the future. But I also think we have
4 to dial down somewhat the hyperbole and the expectations of what a single document
5 or a single initiative by the Planning staff can actually accomplish. And the other thing I
6 just -- there's two more points of caution I'd just like to share with you, Mr. Stanley. The
7 first is that, you know, I've been here now six years and I've seen a pretty dramatic
8 lurching back and forth in focus just in six years from Park and Planning. When I arrived
9 it was all about affordable housing. We talked so much about affordable housing and
10 there was a great need. And Commissioners talked to me, and, you know, buttonholed
11 me to insist upon how urgent it was that we bring a whole lot of new housing units
12 online quickly; that the population growth was extraordinary; that it was right in the near
13 term horizon, and that we needed to add in a whole lot of housing stock. And the Master
14 Plans needed to reflect intensive use of housing resources. Well then we had an
15 election in 2006 and all of a sudden, whoa, we needed to really scale back on new
16 housing construction, and tax the goodness out of new housing and make sure that it
17 was supporting itself. And that we really couldn't afford the burden of new housing. And
18 it was a really significant policy lurch that I thought was excessively electorally focused.
19 And I sense that it permeated not only from the Commissions, but it also was coming
20 from staff; that staff was engaged in some reading of political tea leaves and trying to
21 ascertain the will of the voters. And I would just submit that it is for elected officials to
22 ascertain the will of the voters, and that we can discuss amongst ourselves, as we do
23 incessantly, what was the meaning of the election and why are we the ones who won,
24 and what do the voters want. I think in terms of the professional staff who are
25 academically trained to match some of these needs and try and match infrastructure to
26 social needs that we look to the professional staff for non-political professional advice.
27 And what we look for from commissioners, you know, is a range. I mean we certainly
28 want commissioners to do what we want. And what we want, we are politicians. But I
29 think we should have less of a focus on the shifting winds of electoral politics at Park
30 and Planning; let us handle that. And the last caution that I would just share with Park
31 and Planning, which is somewhat reflective of what Councilmember Ervin said, is the
32 public who we meet, the public who knows where your building is located, the public
33 who is aware that it's 7:00 p.m. tonight there will be a public hearing downstairs on the
34 third floor is not the public. It's a very small segment of people who spend a great deal
35 of time paying attention to budgets and zoning and land use and master plans and the
36 vagaries of, you know, the eight of us and the five commissioners. And the challenge
37 that we have as policymakers certainly we have to be courteous and responsive and
38 listen and take into account the views of those who are knowledgeable and
39 sophisticated enough to find us and present their views to us. But one of the easiest cul-
40 de-sacs that the Planning Department historically has fallen into, and there is no better
41 example of this than the Purple Line Master Plan Advisory Group, is to go through your
42 rolodex and find the names of the last 20 people who emailed you and appoint them to
43 an advisory committee, and then you've heard from the public. And we end up getting a
44 pretty narrow spectrum of views from people who are highly motivated to express their



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1 views to us, but who may not actually reflect the broad needs for jobs, housing,
2 opportunity, green space, clean air, clean water, the things that we hope to produce for
3 the real public, which is much broader than any of us can get our arms around. So the
4 great challenge of getting input, whether it's construction shurettes, whether it's doing
5 focus groups, whether it's public opinion polling holding, public hearings, whatever, is to
6 keep in mind that there are broad public needs that the public that testifies at public
7 hearings or the public that sends us, you know, grass-roots email campaigns 50 or 75 at
8 a time on a particular flashpoint issue that they civic association said, you know, send
9 us an email on, is a very small subset of the whole public. And I've shared that caution
10 in the past. Chairman Hanson is probably sick of hearing it from me and the other
11 commissioners as well, but I haven't had the opportunity to share it with you. And I think
12 it's the greatest challenge that faces all of us is how do you keep in mind the real, the
13 broad public interest, even as we are courteous and responsive and serious about
14 listening to those who do take the time and trouble, and we appreciate them to present
15 their views to us.

16
17 Rollin Stanley,

18 Just on your last point a quick example. In Toronto, which is an incredibly diverse place,
19 one of the biggest issues we had were getting the citizens who couldn't speak English. I
20 mean, in my stepson's class there were 35 students, there were 18 different ethnic
21 groups. A lot of those parents can't speak English. They were reluctant to come and
22 engage. So what we do is we would actually get to them through their children, and we
23 would go into the schools and get the kids excited and the kids would bring the parents
24 to the public meetings. Or the kids would bring them to the neighborhood meeting in the
25 church basement on Saturday. So I mean that gets right down to base level. And that's
26 a challenge as we talked about earlier with Councilmember Ervin, about the changing
27 demographics and folks who are not used to that kind of forum and getting them to
28 come out. So there are ways to go about it, but it's a process and we'll be exploring
29 those.

30
31 Alison Bryant,

32 And from this particular board member, he can never ever get tired of hearing what you
33 just said and that caution. He could never ever get tired of hearing it. And right now you
34 are number one among the eight.

35
36 President Knapp,

37 Councilmember Andrews for a clarification, and then Councilmember Trachtenberg.

38
39 Vice President Andrews,

40 I just wanted to add a thought after hearing my colleague -- good friend, George. You
41 know, in my 20's I would have been a great candidate for the type of housing I've just
42 described. I didn't own a car until I was 25. I would have loved to have lived in a place
43 like that. And I'm sure there are people out there at different times in their lives who
44 don't need a car, and there are people who don't want to own a car and will save money



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1 by not owning one. Senior citizens would be good candidates; young people starting
2 out. There are different needs for housing. People have different needs for cars. But if
3 we can't fill up places at metros with people who minimize use, then there's nowhere we
4 can do it. So I think we build different housing that serves different needs in the County
5 clearly. In Ag reserve obviously transit is not a real option. But at metro station we
6 should do everything we can to make it attractive to people who want it to be their
7 primary way of getting around. And then provide access to a car service, provide limited
8 parking, provide free metro passes. Make it attractive. Make it easy.

9
10 President Knapp,
11 Councilmember Trachtenberg.

12
13 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
14 Well surely the White Flint plan offers us an opportunity with the emphasis there on a
15 walkable community clearly, and real smart development. But what I would say as
16 someone who has lived in that area almost 20 years is that the community nearby
17 doesn't necessarily embrace that idea. It doesn't mean they don't want it, but what I
18 know from conversations with my neighbors is that so many of them still fully don't
19 understand the transformation that's going on right in their own backyard. And I would
20 just really want to stress the continued need to work with the community there. And in
21 fact, I am always struck when I meet my neighbors, you know, at the grocery store, at
22 the post office, at the shopping mall, how many of them are asking questions. And it
23 surprises me that they're really not visualizing what I visualize. And, George, I would tell
24 you that if it wasn't a two-adult household, I would most definitely want to make
25 approaches of one of those apartment units near the White Flint Metro. It's my husband
26 that would have to be convinced to do that, because despite his comfort with an urban
27 setting, he's still very much wanting what a suburban, you know, single-family house
28 can provide. He's still looking at that as being the ideal. Figuring sooner or later just with
29 maturity in terms of age, he might discover walking three flights of stairs as he
30 approaches his 75th, but that's not for at least another 25 years. So I'm hoping he
31 comes to the decision though to move us for both of us to relocate into something which
32 very much would be a lifestyle change. But again, you know, I really feel that one of the
33 things we have to improve is the engagement of the community. I don't know the
34 answer for that and how it happens, but it's very clear to me that until we're able to
35 really engage a number of people who have lived in that community a good 15, 20
36 years, there's going to be a lot of resistance. The number one issue that's raised with
37 me at the post office and the grocery store is the issue of the density and whether or not
38 it's really sustainable. And quite frankly it is very much, as Phil said, related to the fear
39 around road condition and gridlock, and the fact that it will not be able to escape it. But
40 a majority of people who actually live in that area do actually use the metro quite
41 regularly. I don't know what the actual numbers are, but I suspect it based on
42 conversations with folks. Because even those like my husband that want to be in that
43 area because it provides a suburban setting, one of the real pluses for us was the fact
44 that you could walk to the metro and that there was a bus around the corner. The one



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1 question I do have, after looking again at the report, which was excellent presentation
2 today, was also to [inaudible]. Where are we in terms of Master Plans? In other words,
3 is it really going to be possible to get six plans in 2009? You know, I really feel we have
4 to have that conversation. I know it's a direct question, but let's talk about it, because I
5 just don't see that it's going to happen. I'm trying to be pragmatic again weighing the
6 fact that we are -- aren't going to be able to optimally fund some functions, probably
7 most functions. So what impact can that have on the delivery of those master plans? Is
8 it more reasonable to say that half of them could be delivered in 2009? But I really do
9 caution we're going to have to be honest with ourselves about what we can realistically
10 expect from all of you.

11
12 Marlene Michaelson,
13 And I just wanted to insert one historical note, which is in the past 20 years, I think, our
14 all time peak has been 4 master plans in a year. And typically it's been more like two or
15 three.

16
17 Royce Hanson,
18 I think part of this will work out as we get into the '09 budget. Certainly most of these
19 plans are either underway or about to be underway. So the -- you're running into one of
20 the constant dilemmas that I think exists in the planning process, which is the hurry-up-
21 and-wait element. The -- I think we just have to look at that as we get into the budget. It
22 may be important to delay some that are currently scheduled, certainly depending on
23 what the budget ultimately looks like. One thing I would like to comment on though from
24 some of the very useful comments that have been made is that I think it's important to --
25 comprehensive planning is very important. The existence of the general plan, for
26 instance, which is a very large plan and a very comprehensive plan has been critical to
27 the development of this County. Without that guidance I think you can look at other
28 jurisdictions in the metropolitan area and imagine what Montgomery County would have
29 looked like without that effort. Now that has to be complemented with other plans. Area
30 master plans when we were largely urbanizing; sector plans today are a more common
31 element that provide more specific guidance for an area and have and should have
32 shorter time horizons for their review and renewal. Important elements of the general
33 plan, which -- such as a more comprehensive housing plan, which I do not see as at all
34 inconsistent with the County Executive's task force and focus on what can be done in a
35 more immediate timeframe with affordable housing. But to look at the kinds of general
36 housing policies that should be guiding us for both production of new affordable units
37 and for the protection and conservation of existing communities that contain affordable
38 housing. So the necessity of linking both the broad and general and more
39 comprehensive planning elements -- components with specific smaller area plans and
40 with implementation actions by other agencies is not an inconsistency. It's a necessary
41 continuum, essentially, of policy from the general to the particular. And there is an
42 important relationship among those. One of the things that Rollin and the staff are
43 working on in the department is connecting the implementation through the
44 development review process with the planning process so that they inform each other



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1 better than they have in the past. And that's really a critical part of this whole enterprise
2 that we're engaged in. I think the same thing is true with the energy and climate change
3 and issues of that sort. Having a general framework within which the pieces connect
4 and make up something more than the sum of the parts. Otherwise we end up with a lot
5 of policy hiccups that we undertake this because it seems like a good thing to do, and it
6 may have consequences and impacts that we haven't thought very hard about. But we
7 need to make those bridges and build a system that works overall for the good of the
8 County. So trying -- that, you know, it's not science as much as it is art and to some
9 degree politics of trying to get these things working together.

10
11 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
12 I'm finished actually.

13
14 President Knapp,

15 All right. I actually had a couple quick questions. I know I have a couple colleagues who
16 previously made comments who had some points that they need to raise as it relates to
17 the work plan. Clearly people have been please and impressed with your presentation.
18 And I guess I want to build a little bit on what Mr. Leventhal said, and even your
19 comments just now, Dr. Hanson. We have been waiting for a person to fill your position
20 permanently for quite some time. Gwen has done a very good job. We had a person in
21 the interim capacity before, but in an interim capacity people -- things kind of move
22 along but they don't necessarily solidify. And so I think it's important for us to not only
23 get the vision of things that we can do, which I think are important, but also really get
24 focused on the management activities that need to take place. Because I know that
25 even Dr. Hanson came in two years ago that was first and foremost in your mind to try
26 and right the ship a little bit. And so we haven't been able to make quite the progress I
27 think that everyone had been hoping. And so one of the things in addition to the vision
28 pieces that we're looking at is how do we actually get some of the nuts and bolts of what
29 we need to be doing readdressed and addressed well. And so I don't -- that wasn't
30 necessarily a big part of any of your talk, but just to see if you have some sense from
31 what you've seen in the last two and a half months as to kind of where you see some
32 things that need focus, where you see the next steps as going, and how we kind of
33 reorient ourselves to the management piece a little bit.

34
35 Rollin Stanley,

36 If you let me go to my trash on my computer, I can actually pull out the slide that I had in
37 that I took out about an hour before I got here to address that very issue. Yes, been
38 here two months -- just over. And working with the staff and the management we found
39 and have already embarked on several things. We're working with -- I call them the
40 head office, I think they're known as CAS, for example, to work on performance
41 evaluations. One, we've been a little lax in getting those done. Performance evaluations
42 are a critical point in helping management and staff work together to do better and
43 identify areas where we're good and where we can improve. And so one of the things
44 we're looking at is a system I implemented in Saint Louis; it's much more particular



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1 about enabling us to look at how we're performing as a group and as individuals. And
2 we're exploring how to get that implemented. We've already got a new reporting
3 structure for our physical reports that go to the gentleman you see beside me so that
4 we're standardizing the reporting structure so people can focus in on -- it's like fill in the
5 titles, don't recreate the wheel. We have situations where there may be two different
6 types of applications on the same application there are two reports. Well we're not going
7 to do that anymore. We're going to have one report so there's not two different planners
8 writing two different background sections on two different applications for the same
9 property. I mean it gets right down to the basic level where we're starting to look at how
10 we can improve those efficiencies. On the broader scale, we've been working to look at
11 a new structure for the agency, and the Chairman talked about it already. One of the
12 best things an agency can do is you don't silo yourself so you're just doing master plans
13 and somebody else is doing development applications and never talk. When I was a
14 planner in Toronto, you did the master plans for your area. You did the board of
15 adjustment things. You did the development applications as teams. And what it does is
16 it really brings a practical and efficient side to what you're doing so you're not just
17 visualizing something, you know what's happening in order to help you create that
18 vision. The other thing that does is it really energizes staff, because you're not just stuck
19 in the same thing all the time in an assembly line. So while we're trying to format things,
20 I want to give the staff the opportunity to be excited and to grow, and to give us their
21 best ideas and their best work. So we're doing all those things now and I'm forgetting
22 some things. I had them in the slide, but everything is on the table. And I want the staff
23 to understand that -- these are very capable people, and we need to give them the tools
24 and the management structure to help them blossom. And it goes back to something
25 that came from that side. I can't remember who in particular. But we're not here to
26 anticipate what you folks want. We'd like to hear what you want. It's part of our process.
27 But we'd also like the opportunity to give you our professional opinion. We don't want to
28 anticipate what you want to hear, although I did a little bit of that in the slide. We want to
29 give you our best professional opinion. And it's imperative in staff to understand that
30 once you've done that it's in the political process, and you don't run out the door crying
31 if you don't get your way. It's part of the process. And we're talking about that now as a
32 staff, and I think that's really important.

33
34 President Knapp,

35 I think that's going to be very important, especially as we face the budgetary constraints
36 that we do. Those are often very good times to refocus on core mission; how do we
37 make sure that we are effectively doing that so that as we come back through those
38 times that are then in a place that we can begin to expand it in new fields of opportunity.
39 And so it seems to me that we have that opportunity before us and the timing is good
40 with some of the new people we brought on board with your arrival we can now begin to
41 focus on some of that. So I hope in the coming months we'll be able to take that
42 approach. The other thing [inaudible] the conversation you just had a little bit with Dr.
43 Hanson is I think a lot of the things that you have raised, both in your presentation and
44 the conversation, are things that are important that we need to think about how we



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1 address. And I guess there are two ways to do it. There is kind of the new exciting
2 project that we want people to go off and think about over here, and then there's the
3 nuts and bolts of what we do. And then some day, perhaps, we get some of those new
4 concepts and they float back in, or we figure out how through doing what we're -- what
5 are nuts and bolts to our master plans to development review, we take these concepts
6 that are new and exciting and kind of begin to fold them in. And that's how we engage
7 that piece. And it seems to me that's what we want to try to begin to focus more on as
8 opposed to coming up with new and exciting individual projects out here. And I think
9 that's what you we're kind of talking about in your last comment, but I just -- I heard that
10 right.

11
12 Royce Hanson,

13 I think that's right. One of the things those of you who were on the prior Council when
14 you're talking with me about some of the problems that had existed before was that one
15 of the most important things you do in an organization is try to get the fundamentals
16 right. If you get the fundamentals right, then most of the other stuff that you try to do is
17 probably going to turn out pretty well. And what Rollin and Mary and the Board are
18 working on is trying to get those fundamentals right, because that's going to make a
19 material difference in the output and the quality of the output of the organization over
20 time. And I don't, you know, we have an extraordinarily talented staff. We really have in
21 both departments some of the best professionals that we'll find any where in the
22 country. And our job as -- my colleagues and I on the Board, our job is to try to create
23 the environment where that kind of fundamental work can get done and get done well.
24 And frankly those of you on the Council are important aspects of that too in helping us
25 create that environment where professional integrity is highly valued that -- as Rollin
26 said, the staff's job is not to tell you or to tell the Board what we're predisposed to like.
27 Their job is to give us the best professional judgment that they can exercise on the
28 issue. Our job as citizen members of the Board is if we feel it important or necessary to
29 temper that with our judgment as public members and yours is essentially the same as
30 elected officials then make those final judgments about what we get done.

31
32 President Knapp,

33 And just the other couple points I would raise is I don't think Councilmembers will have
34 heard say this or saying don't do affordable housing that there's no role there to play,
35 but I think as it relates to the conversation that we had yesterday, the question becomes
36 how do we establish the right relationship in the right framework -- .

37
38 Royce Hanson,

39 That's correct.

40
41 President Knapp,

42 So we don't end up in a debate between who owns it as opposed to how do we make
43 sure that as big seat county we're all working together to do it, because I think there is a
44 complementary role for everybody. And I know that from my perspective and just in the



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1 last year, but as we move forward, we can spend an awful lot of time having a debate
2 over who owns what piece. And it's -- I supposed somebody gets something from that
3 debate, but I personally don't [inaudible] -- .
4

5 Royce Hanson,
6 I don't think we're deeply interested in who owns it.
7

8 President Knapp,
9 Right.
10

11 Royce Hanson,
12 I think what we're interested in is seeing that appropriate and proper functions are
13 performed. And I was going to say this earlier but I want to say it. I think I may have
14 mentioned it to you before. One of the enormous disappointments that I had in my prior
15 tenure at the Planning Board was that neither County Executive who were in office
16 during the ten years that I was there was -- how do I put this -- overwhelmingly
17 committed to cooperation. I've found that the current County Executive and the CAO are
18 very much committed to that. And one of the things that we establish, one of the first
19 meetings that Tim Firestine and I had, was to establish the idea that we would have a
20 monthly interdepartmental meeting with our department heads and the key department
21 heads in county government whose activities intersect primarily with ours. We have
22 been doing that. That has been an extraordinarily useful and refreshing exercise where
23 we have some very frank discussions about, you know, who should be doing what, how
24 we should work together on things. And for instances getting back to the issue of the
25 role the County Executive and the executive agencies in the master planning process;
26 we are working to bring the agencies into the process earlier than they have been. One
27 way of reducing that two-month period after a master plan is produced is to have much
28 of that dialogue in process go on prior to the time that we send you a plan so that it
29 doesn't take two months to look at it.
30

31 President Knapp,
32 We look forward to working with you to try to [inaudible].
33

34 Royce Hanson,
35 And I think it's going to work very well. I'm very pleased about what's gone on so far.
36

37 President Knapp,
38 And to that end, I guess, just the only other things going to require a lot of focus. You've
39 heard eight different opinions here today on a variety of issues, all of which are good
40 and valid and exciting and interesting. You've got any number of opinions on your side.
41 And the challenge we now have is to actually get focused in and get the fundamentals
42 done as the Chairman said. So we'll look forward to working with you to do that. To
43 Councilmember Trachtenberg's point, I would also agree that what we have here is
44 receipt of the master plans is a pretty ambitious schedule, and so we look forward to



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1 over the course of the discussion to figure out what's appropriate, considering we are
2 now into April and we're probably not going to get Twin Brook till June when we've just
3 gotten those pieces introduced today. My expectation is just seeing what we've seen
4 that it's -- we've got to figure out what the realistic approach will be. Not that these aren't
5 laudable and good things to try to get to. I think we need to try and address the right
6 way though. So we'll figure that out. I know that Councilmember Ervin had one point
7 that she wanted to raise.

8
9 Councilmember Ervin,
10 Two actually.

11
12 President Knapp,
13 Oh, I don't know if we've got time for two. All right, Councilmember Ervin.

14
15 Councilmember Ervin,
16 Two points on the master plans. One is Kensington Sector Plan, and I know that Mr.
17 Stanley and the Chair and myself and several of your staff met about a month ago on
18 the Kensington Sector Plan. It is really important to me. I see that we've pushed it out
19 again, but this time for a month. But the conversation that I had with you and your staff
20 person, Fred Boyd, who was supposed to then follow up with the Mayor of Kensington;
21 he didn't do that. This has created some problems because the town of Kensington
22 even now has money that they'd like to offer up to pay to move up their sector plan. We
23 had that conversation. I want to know where we're going to go on that, because this
24 current plan is outdated. And this town -- the town residency, this is their number one
25 issue and concern.

26
27 Royce Hanson,
28 Right.

29
30 Councilmember Ervin,
31 They have the money to do this. I want to know where we're going. I waited for your
32 guy. He didn't do it.

33
34 Rollin Stanley,
35 Yeah. I actually followed up with him. I thought he said he -- but I will check. But I will
36 commit that we'll get the first shurette for that organized and out to the committee or to
37 the community by mid to third week of May.

38
39 Councilmember Ervin,
40 Okay.

41
42 Rollin Stanley,
43 We'll get something scheduled for a June date give people plenty of lead time. And we'll
44 get that going.



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Councilmember Ervin,

Okay, that's the first thing. The second thing is I want to congratulate you, and I'm happy to see that the Wheaton CBD is on schedule, will be delivered to us here July of '09. And I'm going to bird-dogging these, because these are really important if we don't want zoning by text amendment to continue in Wheaton and in Kensington. So I just wanted to put that out there. And then finally, I have a request for a limited master plan amendment in the 1997 Fairline Master Plan that would recommend a new Euclidian zone for the Perconte site and site two. I know this is not the first time you're hearing this. I want to know what your thinking on that is, and whether or nor we'll be able to proceed with that.

Royce Hanson,

I think that's one of the things that we really do need to take up in our budget discussions in terms of setting the work program for the next time. I know that staff is looking at that issue. And I know that there's a lot of activity that surrounded that, and there is a problem of trying to deal with that by text amendment, which probably is not the most appropriate way to deal with it.

Councilmember Ervin,

Well that remains to be seen. You did it in Wheaton on a -- .

Royce Hanson,

Well, I'm talking about doing -- a text amendment would be not the most appropriate. I think it -- seemingly a limited -- this is a candidate, it seems to me, for a limited master plan amendment.

Councilmember Ervin,

Okay. That's very good. That's what I was hoping to here.

Royce Hanson,

Glen might have a comment on it.

Glen Kregar,

We're aware of this issue. And we're trying to figure out how to target the resources necessary to get that particular plan [inaudible] and you're talking about Cherry Hill [inaudible].

Councilmember Ervin,

Yes.

Glen Kregar,

We know we've got to do that, it's just a matter of identifying the resources to do that. But we are figuring it out.



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1
2 Councilmember Ervin,
3 Okay. Is there some timeline on when there's going to be a decision made on that or --
4 ?
5
6 Royce Hanson,
7 I'd assume you'll make it during budget.
8
9 Councilmember Ervin,
10 During budget, okay.
11
12 President Knapp,
13 Okay. The only point I would -- Councilmember Floreen, on this point?
14
15 Councilmember Floreen,
16 Yep. I'd just like to say -- I wanted to say I'd like to have a proposal for treating this -- it's
17 parcel 29 in site 2. It's a very constrained geographic area. To have that -- your
18 proposal for how we would handle that as a limited master plan amendment.
19
20 Royce Hanson,
21 Which, I'm sorry?
22
23 Councilmember Floreen,
24 It's site 2 and parcel 29.
25
26 Unidentified,
27 Cherry Hill.
28
29 Councilmember Floreen,
30 In Cherry Hill. Not the whole shebang but just those two hunks of land.
31
32 Glen Kregar,
33 We can do that. Just so everyone's aware, but there are federally-owned properties that
34 could be redeveloped in that [inaudible].
35
36 Councilmember Floreen,
37 Keep going. This is not done.
38
39 Glen Kregar,
40 Okay, just want to be clear about that.
41
42 Councilmember Ervin,
43 I just want one more comment. It's really interesting to note that a lot -- I've been getting
44 some emails on this because people think that that was in Mrs. Praisner's district; it's in



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-- there are parts of it in District 5. And so I just wanted to be -- if anybody's listening to this because I've gotten these emails saying, how could you do this when there is no Councilmember representing District 4. So I just wanted to make that point clear.

Glen Kregar,

I do want to mention that I believe that are talking about what would encompass the new hospital site as well, or are you not including that?

Councilmember Floreen,

I don't know if it's necessary.

Councilmember Ervin,

It's not.

Royce Hanson,

I think what we'd have to do is to look at what the appropriate area for restudy or for analysis is.

Councilmember Floreen,

Well that's [inaudible] no two pieces is the same.

President Knapp,

Okay. That concludes our comments. Thank you all very much for the discussion. And we'll continue moving forward.